

## First response to leadership challenge

## Thatcher ready to hit out at 'hostile bowling'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher last night signalled her willingness to take on all comers, both in the Conservative party and in Europe, by insisting that the "hostile bowling" she had been facing of late would be "hit all round the ground".

In her address to the Lord Mayor's banquet at Guildhall, in the City of London, the prime minister repeated her warning that there would be an invasion soon if Iraq did not get out of Kuwait, promised that it would not be long before inflation began to fall, and remained firmly critical of the European Community's rush to economic and monetary union.

Mrs Thatcher had not progressed beyond the opening pleasantries of her speech before she responded to the mounting speculation about a Conservative leadership challenge.

"I am still at the crease, although the bowling has been pretty hostile of late," she said. "And in case anyone doubted it, can I assure you



there will be no ducking the bouncers, no stonewalling, no playing for time. The bowling's going to get hit all round the ground. That's my style."

Her campaign team is being prepared and Downing Street believes that Michael Heseltine has allowed the leadership contest to reach such a pitch that he would seem cowardly if he failed to make a challenge.

Mrs Thatcher was making it clear that she will fight to the end. Close colleagues say that if she failed to win a sufficient margin in a first-round contest she would still fight a second round, scotching ideas that she would choose to resign if denied the support of a significant number of Tory MPs.

Sources close to the prime minister say that she will not be commenting directly on any leadership challenge, but her mood is that she will meet it head-on.

The passage in last night's speech about not playing for time, however, would hardly apply to a Conservative leadership contest for which the dates have already been set. Mrs Thatcher's remarks were taken as a sign of her determination to fight any commitment to a single currency and a European central bank at the Community summit in Rome next month, and to the inter-governmental conferences beginning then. There had been suggestions that Britain might settle for the compromise of signing up to further moves on economic and monetary union, but only

for an indeterminate future date.

Government sources said that the prime minister's repeated assurance that Britain's destiny lay in Europe and her welcome for "more co-operation of every sort between the Continent and the United Kingdom", like the Channel tunnel, demonstrated a positive attitude to the Community. Mrs Thatcher also spent some time setting out her continued reservations about economic and monetary union, however.

The prime minister emphasised that Britain's democratic institutions had evolved over centuries and said of the monetary union commitments adopted at the last Rome meeting: "We don't readily understand why people insist on setting time-tables for future stages before they have decided on their content."

There were vast differences between living standards in the member countries: inflation rates varied from 2.5 per cent to 22 per cent; public finances ranged from Britain's budget surplus to Italy's huge deficit; and many countries had high industrial subsidies.

"We look at these things and ask: with such enormous disparities, is it really sensible to tie ourselves down now to specific commitments in the distant future, before we can possibly know whether they can be achieved and what their consequences would be for each of our countries?"

Mrs Thatcher was regarded by some colleagues as having sabotaged the Chancellor's compromise hard ecu plan after the Rome summit. Last night, however, she defended the "evolutionary approach" which it represented.

Praising the City for its contribution to the hard ecu plan she said: "Isn't it better to follow an evolutionary approach, to make progress a step at a time? That's the course Britain has chosen in proposing the hard ecu as a common European currency alongside national currencies, so that people can choose which to use. Ours is the only fully worked out proposal for the next stage."

European media, page 2

## Speculation grows on leadership fight

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

A CHALLENGE for the leadership of the Conservative party appeared increasingly likely last night amid signs that the cabinet was being mobilised to defend the prime minister.

Supporters and opponents of the former defence secretary agreed yesterday that he had been propelled too far down the road towards a contest to pull out now without losing credibility.

In preparation for the battle ahead Mrs Thatcher's close supporters are advising her to stay in the field if she fails to win an outright victory on the first ballot against Mr Heseltine.

It is also being suggested by senior backbenchers that in the unlikely event of Mrs Thatcher being defeated or deciding to stand down because the first ballot dis-

played a lack of confidence in her leadership, a cabinet alliance would immediately form around Douglas Hurd as a candidate who would deny Mr Heseltine the crown.

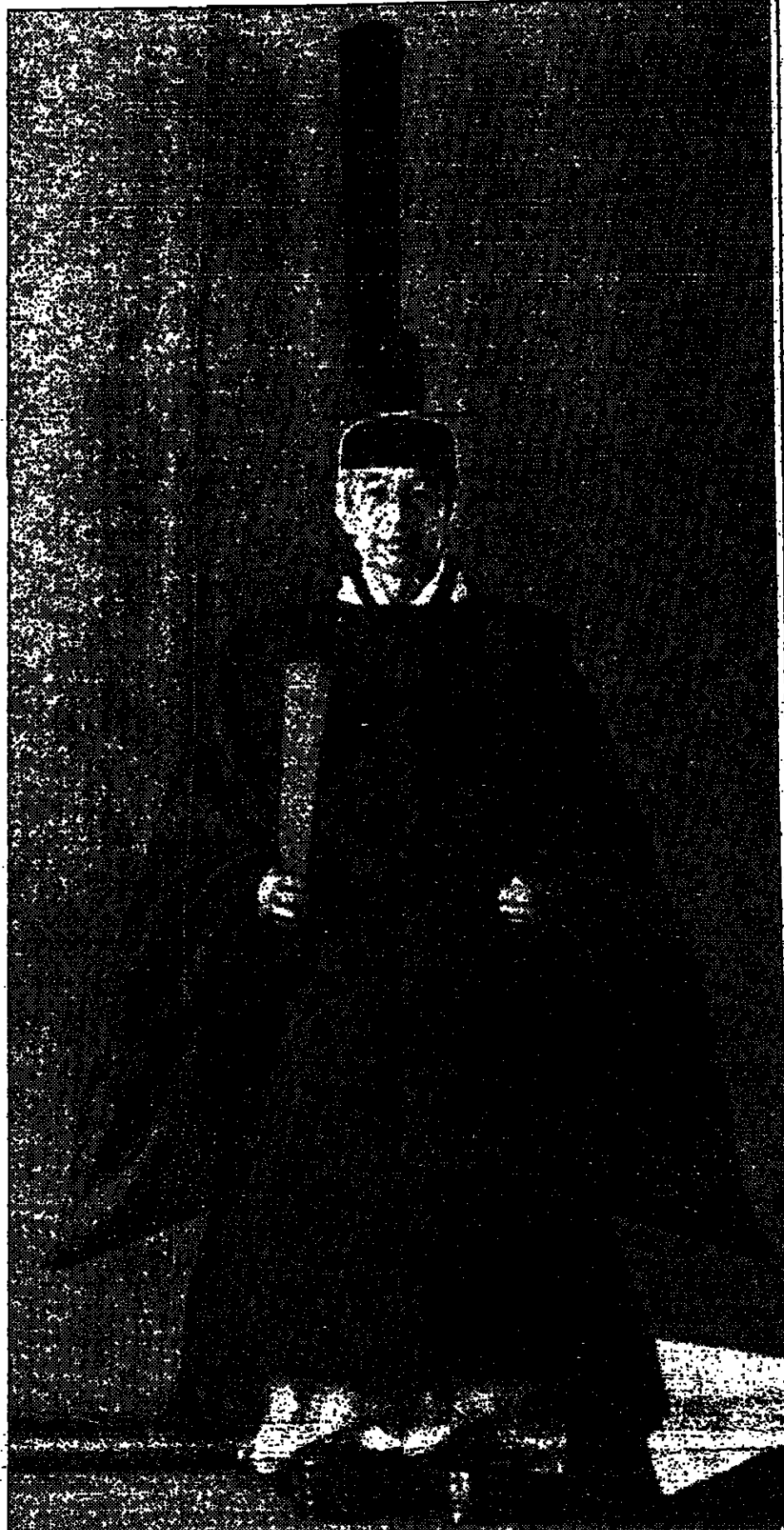
It emerged that Norman Tebbit, the former party chairman, remains a possible leadership contender if Mrs Thatcher were removed from contention on the first ballot.

Mr Tebbit said yesterday that the overthrow of Mrs Thatcher would be likely to leave the party much more divided than it was today.

As Mr Heseltine flew to Germany yesterday for a brief visit, all the indications were that he would declare his candidature tomorrow. Close aides said yesterday they

Continued on page 24, col 2

Diary, page 16  
Letters, page 17



Emperor Akihito wearing the ceremonial robes in which he was enthroned in Tokyo yesterday as Japan's 125th monarch. The Prince and Princess of Wales were among the foreign guests attending the ceremony. Bombs and rockets, page 24

## Iraq orders out British envoy

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

A BRITISH diplomat in Iraq has been ordered to leave within 10 days after allegations that he used "inappropriate language" when talking to Iraqi protesters outside the British embassy in Baghdad.

Britain has retaliated by ordering an Iraqi diplomat in London to leave. The incident marks the second phase of mutual expulsions since the invasion of Kuwait on August 2. Harold Walker, the British ambassador in Baghdad, was summoned to the Iraqi foreign ministry on Friday and told that James Tansley, a second secretary, was persona non grata.

The Iraqi head of protocol did not specify what Mr Tansley was alleged to have said, according to Whitehall sources. Almost any critical remark, however mild, could have been taken as an insult, given the tension. The sources said the allegation was "totally unjustified".

Azmi al-Salhi, the Iraqi ambassador, was called to the Foreign Office on Saturday by David Gore-Booth, a senior official. He was told that in response Britain was ordering Wajdi Mardan, a second secretary, to leave within 10 days.

In September Britain expelled Iraq's military attaché in London and restricted the remaining diplomats to a

travel radius of 35 miles from the centre of London. Iraq retaliated with identical measures against the British embassy in Baghdad.

The attempts by the Iraqi authorities to force the closure of the British embassy in Kuwait led to pressure in Britain for action against the Iraqi embassy. The government refused this at the time on the ground that it for fear measures would be counter-productive. The government is now understood to have felt it essential to show firmness.

● DUBAI: Tom King, the defence secretary, said last night that American, British and the other international forces in the Gulf were ready to attack Iraq now. (A Correspondent writes.) More troops might reduce the number of casualties and the time it took to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait, he said, but there was no doubt that a war could be won with the forces already on the ground.

He said: "There is obviously a time limit. Nobody wants fighting, but if there is a continuing refusal to recognise the justice of the world demand, there will be conflict."

How to morale, page 14  
No Arab solution, page 16  
Diary, page 16  
Leading article, page 17

## Football clubs punished

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

IN AN unprecedented disciplinary punishment, the Football Association yesterday deducted two league points from Arsenal and one from Manchester United for their part in a mass brawl at Old Trafford three weeks ago.

Both clubs were also fined £50,000 each.

The clubs, which were charged with bringing the game into disrepute, declined to comment but are believed to be considering an appeal.

Arsenal, second in the first division, are now eight points behind Liverpool.

Arsenal had already fined five of their players and also George Graham, the manager, following the incident while United fined three players.

Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, said the commission had recognised the action which the clubs had taken and had also taken into account their previous records. He said the commission "determined to eliminate mass confrontation".

The FA has also asked for a report on the Manchester City versus Leeds match on Sunday when Leeds supporters damaged seats at an estimated cost of £20,000.

Full report, page 40

## Piper Alpha oil company criticised over safety

By KERRY GILL

FUNDAMENTAL changes in the way in which North Sea safety is run were ordered by the government yesterday following the Piper Alpha disaster in July, 1988, which claimed 167 lives.

The government has accepted the findings of Lord Cullen, the Scottish judge who chaired the 13-month enquiry into the disaster. He strongly criticised Occidental, the platform's operator, and the energy department's safety inspection procedures. The government has also forwarded the enquiry report to Scotland's Lord Advocate, who could initiate prosecutions.

Lord Cullen said that the department's safety inspection aboard Piper Alpha just two weeks before the tragedy had been superficial. He doubted whether the type of inspection then practised by the department was an effective means of monitoring safety management by the North Sea industry.

The government has accepted 106 recommendations by Lord Cullen, including one proposing that the energy department should be stripped of its powers to carry out safety monitoring. In future, safety in the North Sea will be policed by the Health and Safety Executive. The trade

unions and the 36 oil companies operating in the North Sea last night welcomed the recommendations.

Occidental was criticised for failing to provide adequate safety training. Senior management was too easily lulled that safety was being maintained, and workers and management on the platform were not adequately trained and prepared for a big emergency, Lord Cullen said. The company had failed to adequately protect its workforce.

"The system for control in the event of a major emergency was rendered almost entirely inoperative. Smoke and flames outside the accommodation made evacuation by helicopter or lifeboat impossible," Lord Cullen said that the initial cause of the disaster had been an explosion in Piper Alpha's gas compression equipment.

The death toll might have been significantly reduced, he said, if the men on the platform had been given instructions to escape by whatever means they could. John Wakeham, the energy secretary, said that the government accepted Lord Cullen's conclusions and recommendations.

Report details, page 5  
Leading article, page 17

## Cling film 'may endanger health'

By MICHAEL HARRISON, FOOD AND DRUGS CORRESPONDENT

CLING film may be dangerous to health and should never be used to wrap food with a high fat content, such as cheese, government scientists said yesterday. They called for more toxicological studies to be done on the chemicals used in food packaging.

Consumer groups expressed shock at the safety warning. "Wrapping cheese, meat, pasta, avocados and other fatty foods is one of the most common uses of cling film in the home," said Melanie Miller, for the Consumers' Association.

Sue Dibb, co-director of the Food Commission, an independent watchdog body, said: "Toxicologists warned the government three years ago: not enough work was being done on substances

known to migrate from plastic packaging into food. Why has it taken so long to inform the public about this danger?"

The warning comes in a report by the steering group on food surveillance, a committee of scientists which advises the agriculture ministry on the chemical safety and nutritional value of food. The scientists call for more study of the plasticiser ATBC, which is widely used in cling film developed specially for use in microwave ovens.

● Toxic data: Figures from the centre for communicable disease surveillance show that cases of salmonella most often associated with eggs and poultry are 21.4 per cent up on last year, despite controls introduced by the government.

## INSIDE

## Sterling near ERM floor

STERLING fell to within 1 per cent of its effective floor in the European exchange-rate mechanism yesterday as international investors reacted to Conservative party problems and to mounting evidence that Britain is sliding into recession. The weakness of the pound, which had fallen to DM2.9025 in mid-afternoon New York trading could soon present a serious dilemma. Page 25

Amale Kaletsky, page 15

## Disaster costs

Four senior police officers involved in the Hillsborough football disaster are seeking a High Court review to try to make South Yorkshire police authority contribute to their legal costs. Page 3

## Ford gloom

Ford has told dealers to cut prices by up to £1,000 a car to try to regain its market share. Sales are down almost 17 per cent, or 92,000 vehicles, in ten months this year. Page 7

## Israel mission

Israel said it was ready to receive a UN envoy to discuss the occupied territories, but made clear it rejected the Security Council resolution condemning the killings at al-Aqsa mosque. Page 14

## Spurs criticised

THE International Stock Exchange has criticised Tottenham Hotspur, the publicly quoted football club, and Irving Scholar, its former director, for "unacceptable" behaviour. Page 25

## Bradman's view



As England and Australia prepare to do battle for the Ashes, Sir Donald Bradman, in the first of three articles, reflects on previous encounters and gives his thoughts on modern cricket. Page 38

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## City fathers hot and bothered over Bath Spa

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE hot springs of Bath, once sacred, once fashionable, and now a curiosity but always gurgling at full pelt, may suddenly be at risk.

The steaming rills on top of which so much Palladian grace was erected may be dried up by quarrying operations on a distant hillside, the city council fears. It has objected to a planning application to enlarge a limestone quarry 14 miles away in the Mendip hills, which for several years have been thought of as the source of the spa water on which the city's fortunes were founded.

ARC Limited, Britain's biggest producer of aggregates for use in road building, wants to extend its giant Whitley quarry in the east Mendips, which is one of the largest in Europe

and produces six million tonnes of crushed limestone a year. The company is seeking to increase this to ten million tonnes, to cater for the £17 billion national roads programme, by extending the excavations from 300 to 350 acres.

Bath city council fears that the pumping operations to remove water from the new workings may prove a threat to the flow of the springs, as they were interrupted twice in the 19th century, by a borehole and a mineshaft.

Mike Froggatt, the city's assistant director, engineering, said yesterday: "For several years most geologists have agreed that the source of the springs is probably the water that falls as rain on the Mendip hills, which are the largest upland area near the city. The company say they want to get the

stone out of the proposed new part of the quarry very quickly, and it is possible that the water table could be affected before we knew anything about it. The council fears this is a serious threat."

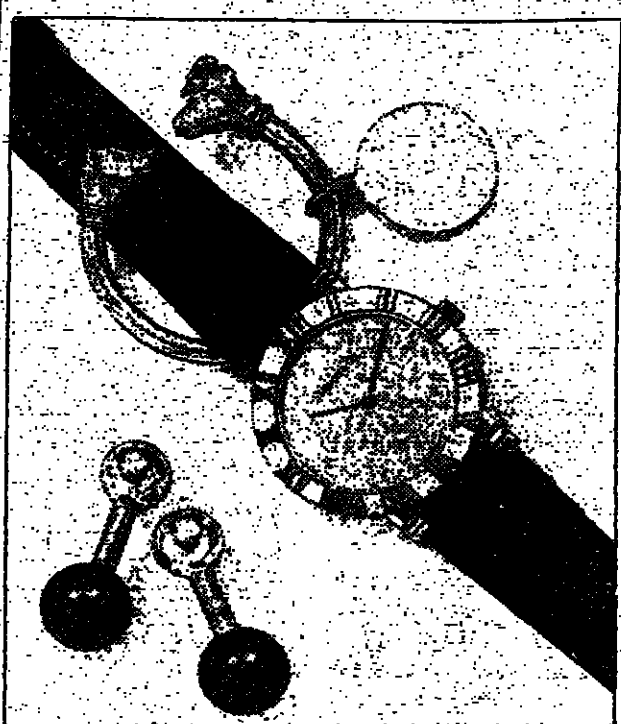
"The springs are an essential part of Bath's history but they are also a national asset as the only hot springs in Britain, and it would be a national tragedy if they were lost."

Mr Froggatt said the council intended to pursue vigorously its objection to the planning application, which is before Somerset county council. However, David Thomas, group lands and planning manager for ARC, said the company would pursue its application with equal vigour. "There is no evidence to date that we are affecting the hot springs," he said, adding that the company had just

spent £14 million on new railway rolling stock to transport the crushed limestone from the quarry, and that without the extension it would have only a limited life.

"If it is determined that we were affecting them, of course we would stop at once," he said.

Visitors to Bath were not able to take the waters for several years after they were found to be contaminated with an organism causing meningitis, but in 1985 the city council sank a new borehole and succeeded in tapping an uncontaminated supply, which tourists may now drink from a fountain in the celebrated Pump Room. "We would like to recreate a full spa, and several companies have been interested," Mr Froggatt said. "The springs are still very high on Bath's agenda."



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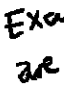
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By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

By RUTH GLEDHILL

Excuse me—  
are you the  
mystery  
CHALLENGER?

A simple line drawing of a character with a large, stylized question mark on its head. The character has a round body and a small, pointed head. It is looking upwards and to the right. The drawing is done in a sketchy, hand-drawn style.

Sir Geoffrey has also implicitly criticised the prime minister's approach by suggesting that as the next decade is likely to be more consensual, the party had to take people along with it and acknowledge the real anxiety about the implications of any move away from the principles underlying the welfare state. Today Conservative MPs will watch to see whether Sir Geoffrey expresses his reservations in a more robust and open fashion rather than his usual coded and opaque manner.

By ALICE THOMSON

The German media is predicting a challenge with unveiled glee. The conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, in a generous profile of Mr Hesseine, said that he had "both experience and charisma" and had become "the darling of many disappointed voters".

Even the communist *Neues*

*Ethnos*, the prominent independent daily in Greece, sees British politics as a "tough chess game" and says that a potential leader will require a good strategy. "The fate of Mrs Thatcher and the party's leading figures is being decided in the dark and ruthless

*Politiken*, the leading Danish independent daily newspaper, sees Mrs Thatcher's chances of pol-

Only the French are blatantly turning a deaf ear to the political rumblings of their neighbour. *The Sun's* campaign against M Delors was given more prominence than the resignation of Sir Geoffrey Howe and French papers have now chosen to ignore what they see as the increasingly bizarre habits of the British.

**By CRAIG SETON**

It also denied that members of the squad had held a party at its headquarters at the time the unit was disbanded, and said that no officer had been served with any disciplinary notice alleging the removal of papers from the offices.

## German visit

The Queen is to make her first visit to the new united Germany on November 23 and will meet the country's president, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

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# Anglican church makes blacks feel 'alienated and unwanted'



The Rt Rev Wilfred Wood: only black Anglican bishop

By RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

AN UNPRECEDENTED number of black people will take their seats when the first session of the newly-elected General Synod of the Church of England opens today, but there remains a feeling among black people that they are still not given full participation in the life of the church.

Black membership in the new 574-strong synod has nearly doubled this year from eight to 14; ten years ago there were two black synod members. Some are evangelical but most describe themselves

as on the traditional wing of the church and say they support the ordination of women.

The Rev Pat Taylor, rector of St Mark's, Levenshulme, Greater Manchester, and a founder member of the Association of Black Clergy, said: "I am encouraged by the results. Of the 28 black people who stood, nearly half were elected." He regrets, however, that more did not stand. "I believe a lot did not stand because they have had so many rejections."

One rebuttal which offended many black church members was the failure of the synod to approve

a measure that would have ensured a minimum presence of black people. The Committee for Black Anglican Concerns said the move "contributed to the sense of alienation, hurt and rejection experienced by many black people in relation to the Church of England."

Despite the increase of numbers of black clergy and laity on the synod, there is a groundswell of feeling that the white dominated church still does not take them seriously.

Margaret Swinson, a member of the House of Laity elected by the

Liverpool diocese and the only black person on the synod's panel of chairs, said: "The main issue of concern for me is not so much black representation but the ignorance of the white members of the church about black people generally. From the majority of church members I do not meet prejudice. From some there is very much an Uncle Tom patronising attitude."

The Rev Eve Pitts, who was ordained 15 months ago, said: "Black representation on the synod will be one of the many things I will take an interest in."

will take an interest in race, gender, education, if I believe I can make a contribution to the debate."

According to a former synod member, the Rev Rajinder Daniel, who surveyed black representation in the Birmingham diocese, black people suffer because of a lack of role models. "In England, there is one black residential canon and one black bishop. I do not think our participation is that welcome."

The Queen, as Supreme Governor of the Church of England, will inaugurate the fifth Synod, at Church House. She will be welcomed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, and will make a speech in reply.

The new synod has a younger face, 40 per cent of those in the House of Laity are new and half of those in the house are women. In the House of Clergy, nearly half of the members are new and 25 are women deacons.

The key topic facing this synod will be the ordination of women, an issue which could lead to deep divisions within the church. The issue has no place in this week's agenda but will underlie much of the debate.

## Hillsborough police seek court action on legal cost denial

By PETER DAVENPORT

FOUR senior police officers who were central figures in the Hillsborough football disaster, in which 95 Liverpool supporters were killed, are to take unprecedented legal action against their own police authority.

They are applying for leave from a High Court judicial review in an attempt to overturn a decision by the South Yorkshire Police Authority not to make any financial contributions to their continuing legal costs.

The action is supported by the Superintendent's Association, their professional body. It is the first time the organisation has taken such action against a police authority.

Trevor Hewitt, association secretary, said yesterday that the men were angry, frustrated and in despair.

"They feel they have been abandoned to their fate with the possibility of facing financial ruin. They and their

families are living under a great deal of pressure and their treatment has been totally disgraceful," he said.

More than 18 months after the disaster, the consequences of the tragedy are still haunting South Yorkshire police. Officers are angry because they may face large financial debts as a result of carrying out their duties in what they claim was good faith.

The most senior of the officers involved in the action is Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield, who was in overall charge of police operations at Hillsborough on the day of the tragedy and bore the brunt of the criticism levelled at the force by Lord Justice Taylor in his report on the disaster. The other three are superintendents Bernard Murray, Roger Marshall and Roger Greenwood. Two unnamed police constables are also joining the action.

Colleagues of the men said

yesterday that they felt under continuing pressure with the re-opening next Monday of the inquests on the 95 victims at which they will probably have to give evidence.

The officers want legal representation at the inquest on a number of grounds. They fear that the jury may return verdicts of unlawful killing, opening the way for civil actions against them; that the hearings may produce fresh evidence to make the director of public prosecutions change his mind; and that Liverpool supporters' groups may launch private criminal prosecutions.

All the senior officers pay £25 a year to an insurance scheme negotiated by their association which provides protection against litigation of up to £50,000. Some of them have already used up as much as £25,000 so far and face severe financial difficulties once the insurance cover is exceeded. Mr Duckenfield is said to have used up most of his legal cover.

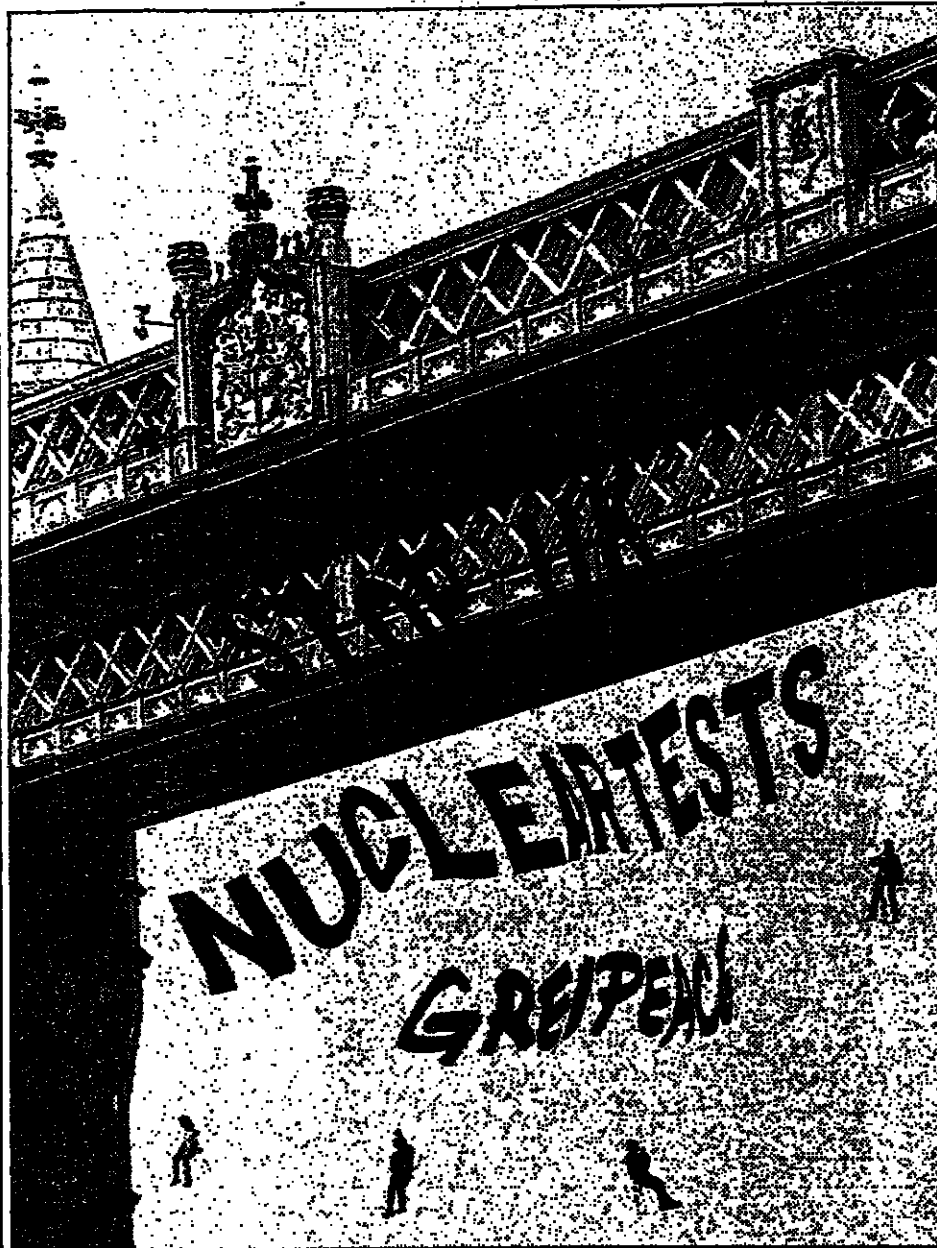
As part of their case the officers are relying on a Home Office circular issued in 1987 which, they say, provides that officers who act "in good faith and in accordance with good police practice" while on duty should not be out of pocket for lawyers' services as a result of any subsequent legal action.

The South Yorkshire Police Authority, which has not disclosed its reasons for rejecting the application by the officers, said yesterday that it had already decided, before being made aware of the legal action, to hold a special meeting on Friday to look again at the application, following representations by solicitors acting for Mr Duckenfield.

An attempt to force Mr Allan Green, QC, the director of public prosecutions, to bring criminal charges over the Hillsborough disaster failed in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Roy Edey, aged 64, of Harrow, northwest London, told the judges sitting in London that the decision not to prosecute was "bad in law, untenable and should not be allowed to stand."

Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Otton ruled, however, that Mr Edey had no legal standing to seek judicial review of Mr Green's findings that there was insufficient evidence to bring any prosecution against any person or corporate body.



Test protest: Four Greenpeace demonstrators shelling off the east walkway of Tower Bridge in central London after attaching a banner protesting against nuclear tests. The two women and two men, all experienced climbers, hung from the 250ft high walkway for an hour as the banner with the words "Stop UK Nuclear Tests" flattered in the

wind and rain. They had got through security checks by pretending that the women were pregnant. "They were able to hide the gear and banners quite effectively," Greenpeace said. The protest was against a British nuclear test tomorrow in Nevada, United States. Ten people were later charged with contravening Tower Bridge bylaws.

## Police question nine after finding cache of arms

By STEWART TENDLER AND LIN JENKINS

NINE men and women were questioned by Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch at central London police stations yesterday as investigations continued after the discovery of what is believed to be an IRA cache of explosives and guns during raids at the weekend.

Police have recovered 70lbs of Semtex, arms, ammunition and documents hidden in two cars. The find is one of the largest made during the current IRA mainland campaign and may yield valuable information.

Eight of the people being questioned are held in high security cells at Paddington

Green police station. They were arrested when police raided two flats at Sidmouth Court in Kilburn, northwest London. The ninth individual is a man who was held and taken to Rochester Row police station after police searched a flat in Shirland Mews, north Kensington.

All nine are being detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and can be held for up to a week. Forensic science experts and police were yesterday still searching several of the raided flats.

The weapons found in the raids will be subjected to a ballistic tests to see if they

match those used in three attacks by the IRA in the current campaign. In June a soldier was shot dead and another injured on Lichfield station, Staffordshire. In September a colour sergeant was shot as he sat in his car outside a recruiting office in Finchley, north London. Two days later Sir Peter Terry, former governor of Gibraltar, was shot at his home in Staffordshire.

The documents, including personal papers, will be checked to see if they throw any light on IRA safe houses or vehicles. Detectives are still searching for safe houses used by IRA active service units since the campaign began in August 1988.

Yesterday, police searched two flats on the top floor of the three-storey Kilburn block, filling boxes and black plastic bags on the landing. The block was bought by the Network Housing Association eight years ago and is no longer considered suitable for families. Some of the flats have been handed over to Initiative Housing Association for single people until there are funds to refurbish the block.

A tenant who has lived in the block for six months said most residents were friendly and socialised with each other. "The people upstairs did not mix. They would greet you on the stairs, but that was as far as it went. The only noticeable thing about them is that they played excessively loud music." He added that a couple appeared to stay there all the time, with other people appearing occasionally.

At his trial last year he was found guilty of offences against Miss Wolfson and jailed for eight years.

Salim in prison. Salim told them that Mr Avery "completely humiliated me and my family."

Through his mother, Salim handed over £1,000 deposit and promised £50,000 when Mr Avery was dead. He offered the men £5,000 a week to keep Miss Wolfson kidnapped. His mother, however, arranged for Miss Wolfson to be killed. Salim also asked the "hit men" to make sure that two witnesses, both call girls, "end up in hospital for at least six months with broken arms and legs."

At his trial last year he was found guilty of offences against Miss Wolfson and jailed for eight years.

## Live sheep export lawful, judge rules

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Gummer, the agriculture minister, acted lawfully in continuing to allow the export of live sheep to France in spite of "horrible" attacks on British livestock cargoes in the summer, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Compassion in World Farming and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which had challenged the legality of Mr Gummer's refusal to suspend exports, were ordered to pay the costs of the hearing, estimated at £25,000. Gavin Grant, the RSPCA's campaigns director, said afterwards: "Despite the verdict, our money was well spent on highlighting the welfare of these animals."

Both bodies can now take the matter to the Court of Appeal or seek a ruling in their favour from the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, which would override British law. In the High Court Mr Justice Popplewell said: "Given the number of export licences issued, the number of lambs safely transported and taking into account all the matters as to the attacks on these animals, I entirely agree with the minister's view that

the stage had not been reached where a total ban could properly be imposed."

French farmers, who said they were being put out of business by cheap imports, made between 20 and 30 attacks on consignments of foreign livestock last summer. Up to a dozen involved British cargoes. In two incidents, French farmers burnt 219 sheep alive and poisoned 94 with insecticide.

The judge said that Mr Gummer had been perfectly entitled to decide that the situation did not warrant a ban on exports. Between July 28 and October 6, nearly 100,000 sheep in 331 lorries had been exported to France and no new attacks had been reported since September 26.

The plaintiffs had argued that Mr Gummer had been in breach of the Export of Animals (Protection) Order of 1981, which required him to withhold export licences unless he was satisfied that the transport arrangements would spare the animals unnecessary suffering. They also challenged Mr Gummer's contention that an export ban would be illegal under European Community law.

## Buildings that no one still loves

By JOHN YOUNG

A DISUSED railway station in Axminster, Devon, may not seem to have much in common with the pithead baths at Lynemouth colliery, Northumberland, the Kursal at Southend-on-Sea, Essex, or a stable block in Stoke Edith Park, Hereford and Worcester.

All are unused and decaying. They are among 150 entries in an illustrated catalogue of historic buildings in need of new owners who are prepared to restore them before it is too late.

The list includes churches, shops, schools, mills, factories, farm buildings, town houses and village cottages. Most are listed — at least four are grade one.

The catalogue has been compiled by Save Britain's Heritage, which says it knows that many people long to rescue and repair a unique old building. It adds: "It is therefore doubly frustrating, and indeed scandalous, that most of those described and illustrated are wasting away in the hands of owners who show no interest in them."

Nobody's Home (Save). 68 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HX. £6.50



Nicholas Dimbleby and plaque he made for his father

## Dimbleby plaque unveiled in Abbey

By ALAN HAMILTON

THERE will be no media ready dying of cancer. From his position on the wall of the south choir aisle, Dimbleby, who died in 1965, looks round to the memorials of William Tyndale, early translator of the Bible, Henry Francis Lyte, composer of *Abide with me*, and down to the floor where the plaques of Noel Coward and Dame Sybil Thorndike were yesterday hidden by a carpet.

Yesterday members of his family joined his former broadcaster colleagues, including Ludovic Kennedy, and Sir Robin Day, for the unveiling of the plaque by Dimbleby's widow Dilya, now Mrs Ronald Travers.

He confided his plans for preventing Miss Wolfson from giving evidence to a cellmate, who told the police. The cellmate pretended to arrange for Sikh terrorists, who were in fact the police officers, to contact

Salim in prison. Salim told them that Mr Avery "completely humiliated me and my family."

Through his mother, Salim handed over £1,000 deposit and promised £50,000 when Mr Avery was dead. He offered the men £5,000 a week to keep Miss Wolfson kidnapped. His mother, however, arranged for Miss Wolfson to be killed. Salim also asked the "hit men" to make sure that two witnesses, both call girls, "end up in hospital for at least six months with broken arms and legs."

At his trial last year he was found guilty of offences against Miss Wolfson and jailed for eight years.

## 'Svengali' plotted to torture and kill detective

A PROPERTY developer plotted from his prison cell to pay terrorists £50,000 to kidnap, torture and murder the detective in charge of a case against him, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Salim Mohammed also planned to kidnap Allison Wolfson, the girl he was accused of keeping as a sex slave and burying alive in his garden, so that she could not give evidence against him.

Using his 60-year-old mother, Shami Mohammed, as a go-between, Salim recruited men he believed were Sikh terrorist extremists. The "terrorists", who were undercover police

officers, were to kidnap Detective Inspector Peter Avery, torture him until he disclosed where Miss Wolfson was being kept and murder him slowly so that he suffered, the court was told. Judge Smedley ordered that the policemen's identities be kept secret to protect them.

Salim and his mother admitted conspiracy to murder Mr Avery. The mother admitted soliciting an undercover officer to murder Miss Wolfson and Salim admitted conspiracy to kidnap Miss Wolfson, and to kidnap another call girl, perverting the course of justice and offering to supply heroin. Both will be sentenced today.

Detective Inspector Christopher Simpson told the court that Salim was a Svengali-like character and one of the most evil men he had come across.

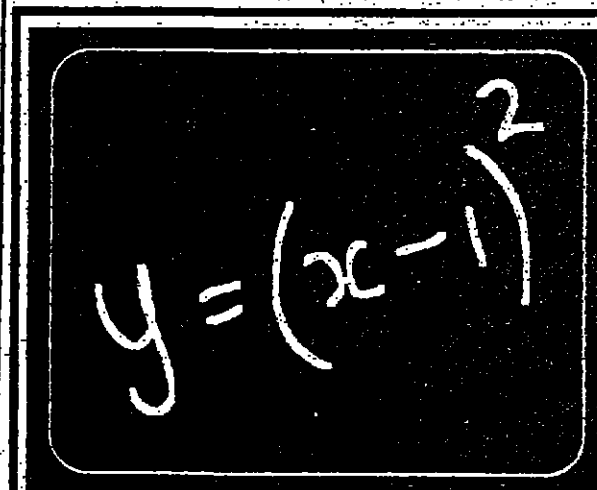
Joanna Korner, for the prosecution, said that Salim, of Manor Park, east London, was in custody last year facing a number of serious charges concerning the kidnapping of Miss Wolfson and living off her immoral earnings and those of other girls.

He confided his plans for preventing Miss Wolfson from giving evidence to a cellmate, who told the police. The cellmate pretended to arrange for Sikh terrorists, who were in fact the police officers, to contact

Salim in prison. Salim told them that Mr Avery "completely humiliated me and my family."

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# Oil company's check systems 'left men to die'

By KERRY GILL

OCCIDENTAL, operator of the Piper Alpha platform destroyed in a series of explosions in July 1988, was severely criticised yesterday in Lord Cullen's findings after the year-long public enquiry into the disaster.

The energy department's safety inspection system was also attacked: its inspectors were said to be inadequately trained, guided and led. The oil company's safety regime left most of the men virtually helpless in the main accommodation module. The fires, smoke and flames outside the module made escape by helicopter or lifeboat impossible, and there was no systematic attempt to lead men to safety. The bodies of 79 of the 167 who died were later recovered from

the module. Deaths there were much more numerous than they would have been if the men had been told to escape by reaching sea level by whatever means possible, the report says.

The "permit-to-work" system, under which certificates had to be issued before maintenance of potentially dangerous machinery could be carried out, showed up many errors, ranging from work descriptions to wrong dates and times, Lord Cullen said. Many practices within the system were unsafe, established procedures were not kept to and unsafe practices were followed.

The enquiry heard much criticism of the fire water deluge system which was designed to flood the platform in a fire. The habit of keeping fire pumps on

manual control during diving operations was carried out in spite of a recommendation that it should be changed, he says. "It inhibited the operability of the system in an unnecessary and dangerous way. It is likely that if the fire water system had been activated a substantial number of the deluge heads in C module would have been blocked with scale." Safety training was not up to scratch. Induction advice was cursory, and lifeboat and raft demonstrations were not given consistently. Training of people with special duties and muster station drills did not take place as often as required. "The offshore installation manager and platform management did not show the necessary determination to ensure that regularity was achieved."

Lord Cullen said that in the face of his knowledge that virtually all emergency systems had become ineffective, the manager "took no initiative in an attempt to save life". The manager, Colin Seton, died in the disaster.

Lord Cullen continued: "They (Occidental) were too easily satisfied that the permit-to-work system was being operated correctly, relying on the absence of any feedback of problems as indicating that all was well. They failed to provide the training required to ensure that an effective permit-to-work system was operated in practice. In the face of a known problem with the deluge system they did not become personally involved in probing the extent of the problem and what should be done to resolve it as soon

as possible. They adopted a superficial attitude to the assessment of the risk of major hazard."

Lord Cullen added: "They failed to ensure that emergency training was being provided as they intended. The platform personnel and management were not prepared for a major emergency as they should have been. The safety policies and procedures were in place: the practice was deficient."

Lord Cullen also examined the involvement of the energy department from June 1987 up to the accident 13 months later. Inspections were carried out in June 1987 and two weeks before the disaster after a rigger died when a canopy on which he was working shifted. That inspection reported that lessons

appeared to have been learnt from the man's death and recommended a further inspection in a year. However, the Cullen report said that the inspector was unaware that the fire pumps had been switched to manual when diving took place; he did not inspect the deluge system, and he could not recall asking if there were any problems with it. The inspection was "superficial to the point of being little use as a test of safety on the platform. It did not reveal any one of a number of clear-cut and readily ascertainable deficiencies."

Lord Cullen said it would not be fair to blame the inspector, given his relative inexperience and the limited guidance he was given. "The inspectors were and are inadequately trained, guided and led."

## Single body sought to monitor tough safety regulations

By KERRY GILL

ALL operators of oil and gas installations, planned and existing, should be required by law to carry out formal safety assessments of major hazards to show that the effects of a potential disaster such as Piper Alpha have been identified, according to Lord Cullen, who yesterday published his report of the 13-month public enquiry.

As expected, Lord Cullen, who chaired the enquiry held in Aberdeen, has called for the need for a single, regulatory body to oversee safety controls in the industry. He favours control being handed over to a suitably strengthened

Health and Safety Executive. In the past, the responsibility lay with the energy department.

Formal safety assessment must take the form of a "safety case", regularly updated. A central feature of this should be a temporary refuge for employees while an emergency is assessed and preparations made for evacuation.

In the Piper Alpha disaster, in which 167 people died, asphyxiation was the principal cause of death in 109 cases, including the 79 men recovered from the accommodation module which crashed into the sea. Others died while trying to escape and, of the 61 survivors, many used ropes or ladders or jumped off. The "safety case", almost certain to be the subject of statute, will have to state how long the refuge can withstand a disaster and the risk of failure. It will also have to detail escape routes, embarkation points and lifeboats.

Lord Cullen said that present measures were ineffective for ensuring that safety management by all operators was adequate. Every company will now have to show that the design and operation of its installation and equipment is safe.

"The safety management system of the company should set out the safety objectives, the system by which those objectives are to be achieved, the performance standards which are to be met and the means by which adherence to those standards is to be monitored," Lord Cullen said.

Operators should regularly audit safety systems and the regulatory body should have the power to check audits whenever it saw fit to do so. "This involves a completely new approach to regulation in the United Kingdom offshore safety regime," he said. The main recommendations are:

- each operator should submit a "safety case" to the regulatory body governing each of its installations, which must be updated after five years and be subject to regular

audit by the company, with spot checks by the regulatory body;

- the energy department should lose responsibility for safety in the North Sea and it should pass to the Health and Safety Executive (the regulatory body);

- the body, operators and contractors should support and encourage the involvement of the offshore workforce in all safety matters;

- permit-to-work procedures should form part of each company's safety management system. Those required to operate the system should be trained to a standard laid down by the regulatory body;

- all data on hydrocarbon leaks, spills and ignitions should be collated;

- activation of emergency shutdown valves should be contained in the "safety case";

- operators should submit a risk analysis to the regulatory body for acceptance;

- the temporary refuge should have facilities to control and monitor any emergency and a radio room to maintain communication;

- an analysis should be compiled by all operators governing control of an emergency, involving availability of helicopters, survival craft, lifeboats and other means of escape. It will also cover the speed, sea capability, accommodation and function of standby vessels and the types, numbers and availability of fast rescue craft and personal survival and escape equipment. The analysis should have to be completed within 12 months;

- everyone on an installation should have a survival suit, a life jacket, a smoke hood, a torch and fireproof gloves;

- standby vessels should have such basics as two remote-controlled searchlights, two fast rescue craft equipped with VHF radios, and equipment to ensure adequate communication with the craft, installations, nearby vessels and the shore;

- emergency training should form part of each operator's safety management system.

## MP calls for firm to be prosecuted

By ROBERT MORGAN

A CALL for Occidental, operators of the Piper Alpha platform, to be prosecuted was made in the Commons yesterday by Frank Dobson, shadow energy secretary. He said that the "energy secretary, in saying that the only proper tribute to those who died or suffered as a result of the disaster is to do all that is humanly possible to make sure that such a disaster does not happen again."

He added: "We owe them more than tributes and condolences. We owe them the safest working conditions that can be obtained, and they have been badly let down."

He said that although Occidental had been prosecuted in 1987, it had not changed its safety arrangements. He sought a promise that action would be taken against all responsible for the disaster. In 1980 the Burgoyne committee had recognised that the ramshackle collection of regulations and the involvement of several agencies was a threat to safety in the North Sea. It recommended a single agency responsible for safety, yet between then and the Piper Alpha disaster in 1988 virtually nothing was done to implement the Burgoyne recommendations.

He suggested that Mr Wakeham's predecessors as energy secretary had given a higher priority to the privatisation of British Gas than to safety.

He welcomed the decision to put safety under the auspices of the Health and Safety Executive and called on Mr Wakeham to bring together all operators, contractors and representatives of those who daily risked their lives in the North Sea so that a fresh start could be made.

Mr Wakeham pointed out that the prime responsibility always had been and always would be with the operator, but, as Lord Cullen observed, there were significant flaws in the way safety was managed by Occidental. On the question of prosecutions, he said that he had sent a copy of the report to the Lord Advocate and it would be wrong to indicate anything further.

## Cullen findings are welcomed by the 36 North Sea operators

THE 36 oil and gas companies operating in the North Sea last night welcomed the findings of the Cullen report into the Piper Alpha fire (David Young writes).

The UK Offshore Operators Association, which represents the companies, said that the recommendations in the report would make a big contribution to future safety in the industry.

Dr Harold Hughes, the association's director-general, said: "Piper Alpha was a tragic and shocking event. Lord Cullen has responded by producing a blueprint for the future. His findings must be considered at every level within the industry."

"Maintaining and improving safety is the offshore industry's first and overriding priority. That is why companies have already spent £750 million on safety measures to prevent another Piper Alpha ever happening again."

The association will now examine the report in detail and will be assessing what further resources will be needed to implement the report's recommendations.

Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, said: "It is a tragedy that it took the needless loss of 167 lives to identify

ways of tackling major hazards offshore." He added: "Lord Cullen's enquiry has now borne out what the TUC has been saying about offshore safety for over ten years — namely that there needs to be a health and safety inspectorate independent of the department of energy, under the health and safety commission."

Dr Trevor Evans, general secretary of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, said: "It is time to kill the lie that accidents cannot be prevented. Accidents can be prevented by better design, better training, better work practices and a commitment to safety throughout an organisation from top to bottom."

Occidental Petroleum (Cal-edonia) Ltd, the operators of Piper Alpha, promised last night that the lessons learned during the tragedy would never be forgotten.

Glenn Shurtz, the company's president, said: "Lord Cullen's report and the profound changes it will bring to the whole oil industry will ensure that these men did not lose their lives in vain."

"Occidental has handled every consequence of the tragedy as responsibly and thoroughly as possible... we have already implemented many of Lord Cullen's recommendations for the industry. We will implement any further changes arising from the Cullen report."

Relatives of some of the men killed in the fire have called for criminal prosecutions to be brought against those responsible for the disaster.

Molly Pearson, of Milnter, Aberdeen, whose son was one of the victims, said: "Nothing can bring back my son but now the report has been published, the authorities are in a position to prosecute and they must."



The early fire in B module, as seen from the *Tharos* 15 seconds after the explosion



The flames mushroom in a picture taken as part of a sequence 2-3 seconds apart



Fire engulfs the module, photographed by C. A. Miller of Aberdeen Offshore Services

## Stark choice: 'Fry and die or jump and try'

By DAVID YOUNG

THE latticework of steel that rose 600 ft from the bed of the North Sea to support the Piper Alpha oil production platform had stood up to the worst the elements had thrown at it.

When confronted by a big gas explosion on the night of July 6, 1988, however, the frailty of the 12-year-old platform became a clear and tragic demonstration of the forces the oil industry has been tapping under the seabed for the past 20 years. Workers on the platform faced an agonising choice when fire and explosions tore the platform apart.

As one of the 65 survivors said after he was brought ashore, his skin red and raw from exposure to flames and the freezing waters of the North Sea: "It was fry and die or jump and try."

Flames leapt 700 ft into the air, melting the steelwork of the 34,000-ton platform, which had its heart blown out. A total of 167 men died in the disaster.

Survivors told of the sound of escaping gas "screaming like a banshee" about 30 seconds before the first explosion. Many of those killed were trapped in their quarters as they slept after a 12-hour shift. Others were taking a shower or eating in the self-service mess.

No-one was prepared for the events of that July night. Men were burnt to death, died from smoke inhalation or were killed by falling steel girders. Many of those who leapt into the sea drowned or died of hypothermia.

Emergency services were alerted just before 10pm, when the Aberdeen Coastguard station on Blackies Quay, where the platform's supply boats were moored, picked up the Mayday message from an offshore support vessel. The coastguard service moved efficiently into action, alerting ships in the area and calling on RAF and Royal Navy rescue helicopters, and Nimrod surveillance aircraft. The ships, including a US destroyer on a Nato training exercise, set course for the platform. The full scale of the horror took

time to filter back to relatives who, desperate with fear, shock and disbelief, jammed emergency telephone lines.

The last message from the Piper Alpha radio room foreboded the horror: "We're abandoning the rig. Jesus Christ, we've got to get out of here. There's no more time, we've got to get out." Then the line went dead.

Soon the hunt for survivors became a search for the dead, and the bodies of 30 men remain entombed in the debris that fell to the seabed. A catalogue of heroism emerged. Younger workers gave older colleagues lifejackets salvaged from the wreckage before taking their own chances in the sea. Two crew members of an inflatable rescue boat died with the six oilmen they had pulled from the water when their craft was caught by an explosion.

Survivors were taken to the support vessel *Tharos*, which had a fully equipped operating theatre staffed by emergency medical teams, and then airlifted to Aberdeen.

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## Report 'too little and too late', survivor says

By DAVID YOUNG

LORD Cullen's report was described as "perhaps too little, and certainly too late" by one of the 65 men who survived the disaster.

Bill Barron, a painting foreman aged 55 from Aberdeen, was watching a film in the platform's cinema when he was blown from his seat by the first explosion. He escaped only by ignoring advice to make for the helideck. Instead he climbed down to sea level and lowered himself into the water by rope. He was picked up by a fast rescue craft and taken to safety.

Mr Barron, who has not worked since, said he had come to terms with the horror of the tragedy. "What I am wondering about is the recommendations to the government. We have to

see they are implemented. The pity is that we didn't have this years ago. So many men would still be alive."

Bob Ballantyne, another survivor, claimed last night that the full truth about Piper Alpha would never emerge because large parts of the wreckage would never be recovered from the seabed. "I blame Occidental for that because they blew up the remains of the platform. The vital evidence which could have revealed the full truth is lying at the bottom of the North Sea."

Mr Ballantyne, aged 48, worked as an electrician on Piper but is now studying art history at Aberdeen university. "I tried to take jobs on building sites but the noise reminded me too much of the horrors of that

night. It has taken over my life and dominated everything ever since." He was one of 24 men who were in an accommodation module when the platform exploded. All but two died.

James McDonald, aged 52, of Cambusbarron, Stirling, was scathing about the "breakdown of communications" on the night of the explosion. "The communication by the Occidental staff was nil... that's how the rig blew up."

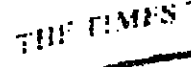
On the night of the disaster Mr McDonald, a rigger, crawled over the dead bodies of his fellow workers to escape. He agreed with Lord Cullen that the survival training and induction for new workers off shore left a lot to be desired. "Not one of the boys

followed their helicopter training that night. The ones who lived were the ones who looked after themselves."

Gavin Cleland, whose son Robert was killed in the disaster, and who spearheaded the calls to raise the wreckage, said yesterday: "I'm calling for the prosecution of Occidental for failing to ensure the safety of their crews on their installations. One hundred and sixty-seven were killed, and no one has yet been arrested."

"They (Occidental) took the decision to go on producing gas in a system that would not shut down automatically, and they knew the terrible risk they were taking. One hundred and eighty days of evidence showed that they are guilty as hell."





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## Ford steps up price war to boost sale of new cars

FORD, Britain's biggest car company, is intensifying the price war in its showrooms in an effort to stem losses of almost 92,000 sales so far this year.

The company has instructed dealers to offer price cuts of up to £1,000 a car, as well as other inducements to clear stocks. The new car market is down by almost 12 per cent, but Ford has seen sales in the first ten months fall almost 17 per cent, from 547,870 last year to 456,032.

The new Escort, which cost £1 billion to develop, failed to make an impact in its first full month on sale. September sales of 10,743 fell to 6,996 last month. There is no suggestion yet that Ford will be forced to make cuts in its workforce or production, but unions are already concerned because Ford's Halewood plant on Merseyside can turn out 1,100 Escorts and Orion saloons a day at full capacity.

Nissan, the Japanese company with a manufacturing base at Washington, Tyne and Wear, is also suffering in terms of falling sales in the first ten months, with figures dropping from 128,621 to 101,230. AFG, Nissan's main distributor, is cutting

Sales of new cars, at a record 2.3 million last year, may dip below two million this year. Kevin Eason reports on the showroom battle to lure back the buyers

27 dealerships and 200 jobs as a result.

Peugeot Talbot, which has seen its sales slip by 15,327 this year, has had to postpone plans to expand its plant at Ryton, Coventry, and has also cut its workforce by 350.

There seems little prospect of immediate relief, with record sales last year of 2.3 million cars expected to fall to about 2 million. The

### ANNUAL NEW CAR SALES IN MILLIONS

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|------|------|
| 1980 | 1.51 |
| 1981 | 1.48 |
| 1982 | 1.55 |
| 1983 | 1.79 |
| 1984 | 1.74 |
| 1985 | 1.83 |
| 1986 | 1.88 |
| 1987 | 2.01 |
| 1988 | 2.22 |
| 1989 | 2.30 |
| 1990 | 2.00 |

\*predicted

industry is bracing itself for a dip below that mark next year unless interest rates are cut quickly.

Industry experts claim that Ford has large stocks of cars to clear. Reductions of between £300 and £500 are being offered on Fiesta models built before October 1, according to instructions from Ford's marketing department at the company's headquarters in Brentwood, Essex.

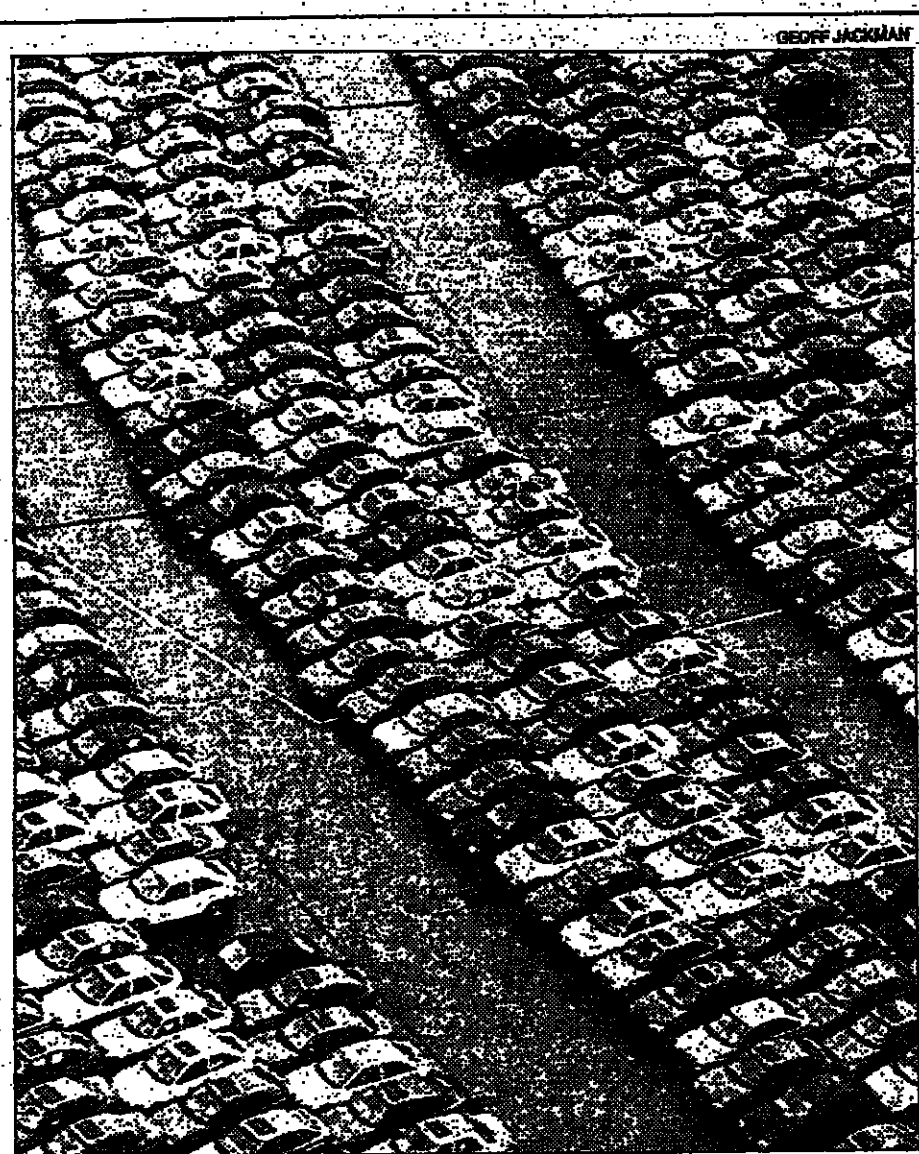
Those price cuts are being made on May 1 prices, however, which could mean further reductions of up to £400, depending on the model bought. The sale or return clause is also being lengthened from 90 days to 270 days, and some older motorists can get two years free insurance, free servicing for 18,000 miles, and two years membership of the Royal Automobile Club as part of a "manure drivers" programme marketing

drive. Dealers are also being offered incentives worth up to £300 on each pre-October 1 Fiesta sold. Ford emphasised that the price cuts applied only to the pre-October 1 cars, which have different specifications to cars now being made.

Vauxhall, however, sold 17,568 cars last month, compared with Ford's 17,409. The Vauxhall Cavalier, made at Luton, Bedfordshire, topped the sales league, and the company was also the October market leader in fleet sales, an area traditionally dominated by Ford.

Vauxhall's assault underlines the increasingly fierce pace of the market, with manufacturers using discounts to attract sales.

The push to maintain new car sales has, however, led to a glut of nearly-new second-hand cars on the market. John Knight, deputy car editor at *Glass's Guide*, the industry "bible" for used motor prices, said: "Dealers are seized up with product." Hopes that the fall in resale prices would bottom out have now given way to fears that the decline will continue into next year.



Ready to go: brand new cars stockpiled at Ford's plant in Halewood, Merseyside

## School is saved by judge from closure

By PETER DAVENPORT

A JUDGE yesterday saved a 500-year-old grammar school from closing because of financial problems.

Hull Grammar School, which was closed two years ago by the local education authority during school reorganisation, was re-launched immediately as an independent, fee-paying establishment. It is run by a charitable trust set up by old boys and parents who had opposed the closure.

After an initial intake of about 200 pupils it now has 550 boys and girls, but the rate of growth has been a big factor in its financial crisis. Fees set at competitive levels to encourage interest were too low to ensure economic stability and the rapid growth in numbers meant that new buildings had to be put up sooner than expected and at a higher cost. The school is thought to have a cash shortfall of about £250,000.

Yesterday Judge O'Donoghue, at the High Court at Leeds, granted the school an administration order and appointed accountants Ernst and Young of Hull as administrators to devise a financial plan to ensure its long-term future.

## Pan Am bomb 'joined flight at Frankfurt'

THE bomb that caused the Lockerbie air crash was in a suitcase that joined the flight at Frankfurt, the enquiry into the tragedy was told yesterday.

The disclosure, the first public confirmation in two years that the radio cassette bomb joined the flight at Frankfurt, was made by Detective Constable Derek Henderson. He said that the

Samsonite suitcase containing the device was an unaccompanied piece of baggage put aboard the Boeing 727 for the Frankfurt-London leg of Flight 103 in December 1988. At Heathrow it was transferred to the ill-fated Boeing 747 jumbo for the London-New York stage.

Last month, American television said that one of the passengers, Khaled Jaafar, may have been duped by terrorists into carrying the bomb in his luggage. Mr Henderson told the enquiry at Dumfries that Mr Jaafar's bags were searched for drugs after the disaster but nothing was found. There did not appear either to have been any substitution of his baggage.

Mr Henderson said that investigators set about matching all luggage in the baggage container where the bomb went off to passengers. Of 65 bags, 38 originated from Frankfurt, of which 33 were recovered and identified.

The 66th item on the list was a Samsonite suitcase which enquiries among relatives failed to match to any passenger. "The conclusion I would draw is that the suitcase containing the IED [improvised explosive device] came from the feeder flight 103A from Frankfurt," he said.

THE public is at risk from inexperienced solicitors who indulge in undignified vying for instructions from injured or bereaved people in the wake of disasters, a leading personal injuries lawyer will say today (Francis Gibb writes).

Such behaviour, in effect a kind of "ambulance chasing", has been prompted by solicitors' new-found freedom to advertise, David McIntosh, senior partner with Davies Arnold Cooper is to say in an address to a London conference on personal injury actions.

As a result of "self-interested marketing" and also of campaigning of politicians and consumer activists, people who are personally injured have unreasonable expectations of what they may receive.

## BR drops investment blueprint

British Rail has abandoned its three-year corporate plan, the blueprint for proposed railway investment schemes, and is to replace it with a new long-term prospectus, based on a "strategic ten-year horizon", which will be published in the spring (Michael Dynes writes).

The move, which has not been formally announced, represents a wholesale reorganisation of BR's approach to investment planning.

## TV man banned

Michael Fish, the television weatherman, was banned from driving for a year and fined £250 with £25 costs yesterday after admitting a drink-driving offence. Fish, aged 46, of Twickenham, west London, said in a letter read to magistrates at Bracknell, Berkshire, that he had decided to drive home from a dinner party after his wife, who was due to have driven, was taken ill.

## Posting dates

Last Christmas posting dates for the UK and Northern Ireland were announced yesterday by the Royal Mail. Last dates for delivery before Christmas Day are December 17 for second class mail and December 19 for first class, although early posting is recommended. Millions of extra items connected with electricity privatisation could make it a record Christmas postbag, a spokesman said.

## Pressure for ban on Antarctic mining

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

JOE Farman, the former British Antarctic Survey scientist who discovered the "hole" in the ozone layer, yesterday joined calls for the government to back a complete ban on mining and oil drilling in Antarctica.

He sent a message of support to a World Wide Fund for Nature meeting in London which heard calls from the fund, Greenpeace and the National Federation of Women's Institutes for the continent to be declared a world reserve where only scientific research would be permitted.

The government supports the 1988 Antarctic Minerals Convention, which envisages mining activities in the continent for the first time. The government believes that the rigorous environmental regulation under the convention is the best guarantee against a future mining free-for-all.

The arguments will come to

a head next week in Chile at a meeting of the parties to the 1961 Antarctic Treaty, called to discuss environmental protection. Australia, New Zealand, France, Belgium and Italy will all be calling for a mining ban.

Mr Farman, who retired from the survey in August and now works for the European ozone research co-ordinating unit in Cambridge, said in his message that a ban on minerals activities would be preferable to the ambiguous signal that would be given to oil and mining companies if the minerals convention were ratified.

Robert Swan, the polar explorer, said at yesterday's meeting: "What Britain says about Antarctica carries more weight worldwide than any other country and I find it not only embarrassing but incredible that we are not taking a lead on Antarctic protection."

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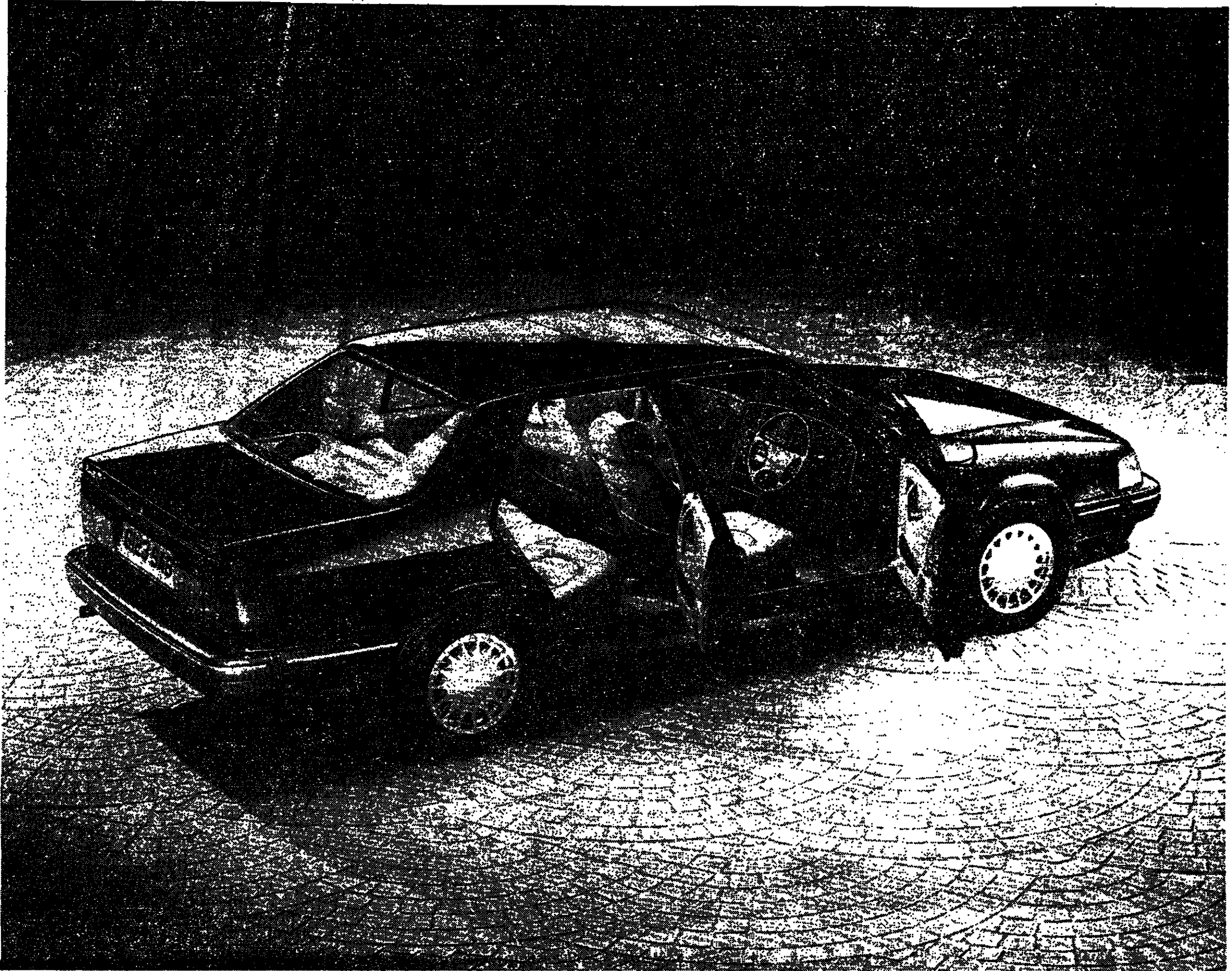




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Take a seat and absorb the quality and space surrounding you in a CDS. The first thing you notice, is the walnut dashboard in front of you. This wood has travelled all the way across the Atlantic. It's Virginian Black, a burr walnut. It's been specially cut, hand-crafted and given eight coats of lacquer, leaving tones of light and dark that enhance the rich feel of the car's interior.

Now the dashboard's layout catches your eye. Mother nature may have provided the wood, but Swedish Aircraft technology built the car, so the controls are shaped around you like a cockpit. The instruments are large, and easy to read.

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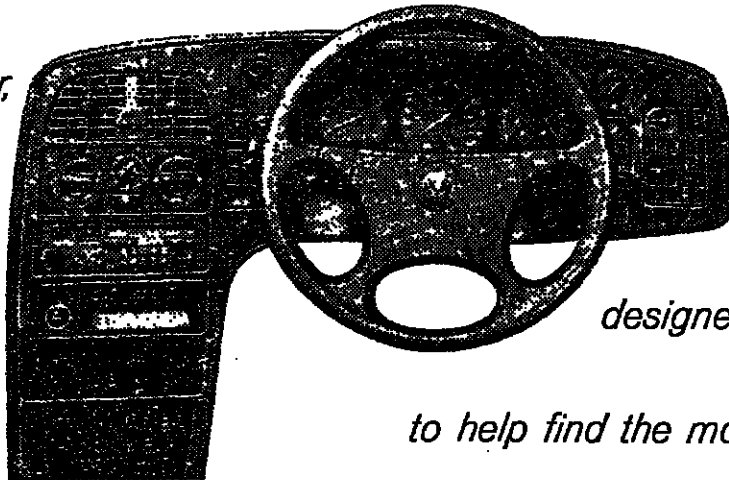
on space. In the USA the Saab CDS is one of only two European cars officially classified as large. The other is a Rolls-Royce. The Saab, however is designed for drivers, not chauffeurs.

As you drive away, you realise that the luxury features of the CDS are not merely cosmetic. Beneath the leather upholstery, for instance, is a seat designed by orthopaedic experts, with five adjustments, to help find the most anatomically correct, yet comfortable position.

In fact, the car is so comfortable, that you won't want to leave it. Unfortunate, then, that this is the end of your test drive. You turn off the ignition and take a last look around the car.

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## UN refugee agency embroiled in battle over choice of leader

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which only recently emerged from a scandal over alleged financial mismanagement, has become engulfed in a new row over who should head the agency.

Western nations have reacted angrily to a preference by Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, to have a close aide appointed as High Commissioner for Refugees. The post became vacant last month when Thorvald Stoltenberg resigned to become foreign minister of Norway.

So far at least six rival candidates have been proposed, rumoured to include David Owen, former British foreign secretary and Social Democrat leader. Western countries which pay the refugee agency's \$550 million (£280 million) annual budget complain that Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, who plans to retire at the end of his term next year, is favouring the appointment of a long-standing colleague.

The donor countries want a high-profile former politician or diplomat who can raise money for the agency and guarantee its independence. But Señor Pérez de Cuéllar is pushing the candidacy of Mr Virendra Dayal, the Indian national who heads his cabinet at UN headquarters.

Mr Dayal, who studied at University College, Oxford,

served at the High Commission for Refugees for 14 years before moving to UN headquarters. Now aged 55, he is said to suffer heart problems.

Yesterday, a UN spokeswoman read an unusually intemperate statement by the secretary-general hitting back at press coverage of the row. "The secretary-general is pained and profoundly irritated by press reports concerning his prospective choice as the new High Commissioner for Refugees," she said. "He is also disturbed by allegations of cronyism and the insinuation that he has not been consulting member states," she added.

The spokeswoman denied that Señor Pérez de Cuéllar had threatened to cut the number two job at the high commission, customarily held by an American, if a Third World national was not appointed as the next High Commissioner.

Diplomats said that Dr Owen was believed to be one of several rival candidates, although he had not been proposed by Britain. Others were Flora MacDonald, the former Canadian foreign minister, Kerry Burke, the former speaker of the New Zealand parliament, and Tom Vraalsen, the Norwegian diplomat.

The donor countries are profoundly irritated by the way Señor Pérez de Cuéllar has promoted Mr Dayal's candidacy. They fear he is

not forceful enough to lead the agency in such politically sensitive areas as Hong Kong, where Mr Stoltenberg proved co-operative with British efforts to repatriate Vietnamese boat people.

"The secretary-general can get his man in," said one Western diplomat, "but he is going to have to pay for it. He is going to have to pay some bills." Last year, Mr Stoltenberg's predecessor, Jean Pierre Hocke, resigned.

UN officials said the Señor Pérez de Cuéllar would delay a final decision on the appointment until he returned to New York from his trip to Europe and Japan on November 20, and diplomats said the donor countries hoped to agree on a candidate by then.

Representatives of the 16 main contributors to the agency met in Geneva last week to air their dissatisfaction with the secretary-general's choice.

Diplomats in New York were divided on whether the problem was simply the process of selection or the character of Mr Dayal. "There are some who are not totally convinced that he is as forceful and dynamic as Stoltenberg was," said one Western diplomat.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar's statement said that he had chosen Mr Dayal only after approaching a senior UN official from a Nordic country.



Key meeting: President Landsbergis of Lithuania with Andreas Boyde, an East German student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, yesterday

## Acute sense of timing shown by Landsbergis

By ANDREW McEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FOR A man of little obvious political calling, Vytautas Landsbergis, the president of Lithuania, has an acute sense of timing. He is to visit Margaret Thatcher today at a moment calculated to underline a drawback of her support for President Gorbachev.

Mrs Thatcher is due to fly to Paris on Sunday to take part in a summit involving the United States, Canada and every country in Europe except Albania. It marks the end of the Cold War and the resolution of nearly all its outstanding problems.

One of the unresolved issues is the status of the three Baltic republics, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Many of their people feel that the West, in trying to help President Gorbachev, has allowed their case for independence to be overlooked.

Dr Landsbergis's presence at Downing Street is probably intended to highlight inconsistencies in British policy. Britain has never recognised the annexation of the three states in 1940, and accepts their right of self-determination. But it has shown no willingness to press Moscow to grant independence, and William Waldegrave, then Minister of State at the Foreign Office, made it clear in a letter to the Baltic Council last month that Britain would not support the three states in seeking observer status at the Paris summit.

Dr Landsbergis drew attention

in a interview to the disparity between this policy and the West's response to the invasion of Kuwait. "The difference is that the Soviet Union is much bigger than Iraq and we have no oil fields," he said. If he seems blunt it is because he has never claimed any diplomatic skill and sees himself as a reluctant politician. If his hands had been broader he would have tried to become a concert pianist, as it was he settled for a career as a piano teacher and subsequently a professor at the Vilnius Conservatoire.

Had he accepted an invitation to join the communist party he might well have become director of the conservatoire. Instead he said he would think about it, which in Soviet terms was as good as a refusal. "I would be very happy to be an academician in an independent Lithuania, but now my country needs me to be a politician," he said.

His comparison between the invasions of Kuwait and the Baltic states might seem far-fetched, but Lithuanians claim that the main difference is that half a century has passed. He recognises the dilemma the West faces in trying to encourage President Gorbachev without losing sight of the Baltic issue. "We can see this is very uncomfortable for Western governments, but that is their problem," he said.

Mrs Thatcher, who has always been among Mr Gorbachev's strongest supporters, will find Dr Landsbergis sharply critical of him. The Soviet leader used a visit to Lithuania in January to announce the introduction of a law making it possible for republics to secede from the union. Dr Landsbergis described this at the time as "a cheap lie". It was, and still is, seen in Vilnius as a law indefinitely to delay their independence.

Lithuania's declaration of independence in March was timed to pre-empt the passage of the new law by the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies and the introduction of new powers for Mr Gorbachev. Moscow responded with economic sanctions which continued until June, when Lithuania suspended the declaration pending independence talks. After months of talks about talks, negotiations are likely to start at the end of the month.

## Lengthening dole queues fuel Poland's winter of discontent

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

THE dry powder of Poland's social explosion trails up a linoleum staircase in a rundown post-war tenement, past crowds of whey-faced mothers and school-leavers, and stops at the door of Teresa Popiel, manager of the main Warsaw labour exchange.

The number of unemployed in Poland has just topped 1 million. By Christmas it will be at least 1.25 million. By next year it will be 2 million. The prime minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who needs the votes of the workers to win the presidential race against Lech Walesa, is increasingly dependent

on doughty officials like Mrs Popiel.

If she cannot find jobs for the throng in her office, it will be easy for Mr Walesa to claim that the Solidarity government has abandoned the workers in the name of the market and easy, too, to derail the economic reform programme.

"If only we had computers," sighs Mrs Popiel, who has to push the unemployed out of the office at the end of the day. The exchange cannot cope with all the new clients who want to sign on for the dole. Yesterday's crop, perhaps 300 in all, included a dozen housewives, a gardener, a clutch of party clerks, a taxi driver

and scores of steelworkers. Many will have to spend the night on the doorstep. On average the exchange receives news of three fresh vacancies a day. The offers posted up on cork boards are overwhelmingly for male manual workers.

Everyone knew the market revolution would be hard, but few expected it would be so devoid of hope. Full employment was an ideological commitment of the communist system. It was also a fabrication of the command economy, as factories put hordes of nominal or half-employed workers on their payrolls.

Because of irregular supplies and built-in shortages, much of

the monthly production quota had to be met in a mad sprint in the last ten or 15 days of the month, and so workers had to be kept in reserve for that final spurt.

Now, as the east European economies move from plan to market, unemployment has become inevitable. By the end of the year it is estimated that Czechoslovakia will have about 100,000 unemployed (1.2 per cent of the work force), east Germany up to 1.5 million (17 per cent), Hungary 100,000 (2.1 per cent) and Poland over 1.2 million (7 per cent). These figures are based on the assumption that all the countries will carry out their promises to

close down defunct factories. East German unemployment is, of course, absorbed into the unified German economy and does not present the same psychological problem.

In Poland, the dole queue has become an unpleasant reality. It is not just a question of moving from disguised to open unemployment. A sharp recession has led to a dearth of new jobs: industrial production is down 30 per cent on last year. The mammoth enterprises favoured by the communists are having to break down into smaller units to stay alive.

The private service sector is not expanding quickly enough to ab-

sorb the armies of redundant workers from the state-owned factories that make up 80 per cent of industry. Grumbling about the lack of barbers masks the real despair that smothered suburban wastelands that are wholly dependent on one failing, shrinking industrial centre.

The suburban suicide rate in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia is astonishingly high. The emigration queues grow by the day. For the Solidarity government, the rise in unemployment is a measure of success in its market revolution. But it is also a barometer of political danger. The workers are restless.

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## Clashes mar protest by Paris students

From Philip Jacobson in Paris

A PEACEFUL mass march by high school students in Paris yesterday was marred by sporadic violence as the crowd neared its final destination. A few hundred hooligans, described by the authorities as being mainly of north African origin, went on the rampage, smashing windows, looting shops and stoning the police.

As darkness fell and the incidents continued, Pierre Verbrugghe, the prefect of Paris, ordered the estimated 100,000 marchers to halt before crossing, as originally planned, into the Right bank en route to a final rally on the Champs Elysées.

Large numbers of riot police were rushed to the Pont d'Alma to prevent "uncontrollable elements" from breaking through towards the presidential palace, foreign embassies and various government buildings.

In the fierce clashes that followed, riot squads used a water cannon and fired tear gas grenades at a crowd up to three hundred youths hurling missiles at them. The same bands, intent on trouble, had previously swept through the

Montparnasse district, attacking journalists covering the march before bursting into a big C & A store, where clothing was stolen.

It was a saddening end to an otherwise impressive display of concern by students, teachers and parents about the deterioration of conditions in France's lycées. Yesterday's march was the climax of a surge of protest that began a month ago and could now threaten the stability of the socialist government.

Student delegations were received at the office of the Michel Rocard, the prime minister, and by President Mitterrand at the Elysée Palace, and most of the marchers were dispersed without incident. Only the hardcore of trouble-makers stayed on to confront the riot squads as darkness fell.

The timing of yesterday's demonstration stepped up the pressure on a government that appears to have lost its way and is beginning to slump in the opinion polls. In a week's time it faces a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly that will see the



Pupil power: angry students in Paris shouting slogans against falling standards in their schools yesterday

Communists, whose votes have been keeping the minority government of Michel Rocard, in power, lining up with the conservative opposition.

For Lionel Jospin, the education minister and a former teacher, the personal stakes are just as high: he is well aware that President Mitterrand would sacrifice him without a second thought if party survival demands it. Ironically, it was M Jospin, acting

as interim prime minister while M Rocard attends the imperial coronation in Japan, who met a delegation of marchers. Never one to miss a trick, M Mitterrand, let it be known that he, too, would receive them at the Elysée Palace.

Yet despite the rude slogans being held up for the television cameras "Jospin you miser, give us the cash". France's education budget stands to be increased by

almost 10 per cent to \$24 billion over the next year. For the first time ever it will overtake the defence budget, but among the favourite chants yesterday was still "money for schools, not for war".

The government, having accepted the legitimacy of student complaints, now seems to have limited room for manoeuvre.

Although some commentators claim the to see the

present unrest is as a re-run of Spring 1968, there is little evidence that the demonstrators are after fundamental changes in their society. To judge by the comments of individual marchers, getting through the baccalauréat, the gateway to prospects of a decent job, is uppermost in their minds. "Striker, pacifist, definitely non-political", read the message pinned to one teenage girl's back.

## EC and America face showdown at their summit

From Michael Binyon in Brussels

EUROPEAN Community leaders are preparing for summit talks with President Bush today, with their relations the worst for years.

With a breakdown of trade talks in Geneva, a denunciation yesterday by the EC agriculture commissioner of American negotiating tactics and a row over a proposed EC-US declaration, talks between Mr Bush and Jacques Delors and Giulio Andreotti, presidents of the European Commission and European Council, are likely to be blunt.

Ray MacSharry, the agriculture commissioner, yesterday rejected American criticism of the Community's farm offer at the Geneva world trade talks. "There will be a successful outcome once some people... stop accusing the Community of being sinners. We've all been supporting agriculture." Alone among the farm proposals of 105 nations, the EC offer was politically and socially realistic and could be implemented, he said. The American offer had not been properly examined. Its proposals for 75 per cent cuts in farm subsidies were over a 10-year period and so could not be compared with the EC's 30 per cent cuts over the five-year period until 1996.

He denounced the US refusal to negotiate on deficiency payments to US farmers, saying that these distorted market prices just as much as Community export subsidies. He said the US had made no promise to freeze overall support at 1986 levels, unlike the Community. Most of what was on the table had been known for weeks. There was no reason for the present delay in the Geneva talks. "We're not prepared to contemplate failure," he said.

The US and other members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rejected the EC offer at the weekend, saying it was no basis for negotiation. No new talks have been scheduled. Arthur Dunkel, the GATT director-general, yesterday told the GATT steering committee that other areas such as textiles and services were also deadlocked. Officials gave a warning that the entire Uruguay Round could now founder, with some smaller countries walking out.

M Delors is likely to tell Mr Bush forcefully today that the EC is not to blame for the deadlock. Taking an unusually aggressive line toward Washington, he told EC foreign ministers here yesterday that the US was being unreasonable, and that farming conditions in the Community were not comparable to those in the US.

The EC ministers rejected an American attempt to have a reference to GATT put in a solemn declaration on relations between the EC and US. It intended as a virtual treaty to codify regular consultations between both sides, the declaration of principles was to have coincided with today's summit in Washington.

Both sides were still bickering yesterday over clauses on stabilising the international financial situation and helping developing countries. The EC wanted these references included, while the US, fearing

it tied the hands of the administration, wanted them removed. The failure to agree on the document, itself the result of calls by James Baker, the Secretary of State, for a new and deeper relationship between Washington and Brussels, is symbolic of the poor state of relations at present.

Mr MacSharry yesterday brushed off criticisms by Clayton Yeutter, the US secretary of agriculture, and Carla Hills, the US trade representative. He said the two sides were closer than thought. Mr Yeutter and Mrs Hills will arrive here on Friday, together with other US cabinet colleagues, for a top-level meeting with the Commission. European officials are expecting some blunt talking on both sides.

## 11 years for failed bomb death plot

Sydney — An Australian was jailed yesterday for 11 years for masterminding a failed assassination attempt in 1978 against the visiting prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, which killed three Sydney bystanders (Robert Cockburn writes).

The bomb attempt at the Sydney Hilton Hotel before a meeting of Commonwealth leaders remained unsolved for 12 years until a member of the Indian Ananda Marga sect, to which Tim Anderson, an Australian, now aged 37, belonged, gave evidence. Anderson will appeal.

## Farmers protest

Paris — Hundreds of farmers used tractors, hay bales and piles of burning tyres to block major roads near several cities in central France. One group intercepted a Belgian truck carrying imported beef. (AP)

## Birds at risk

The Hague — Conservationists are protesting against the North Sea oil slick, the largest of seven discovered along the Dutch coast in the last two weeks. The 30-mile slick, between the north Dutch coast and islands of Texel and Schiermonnikoog, threatened birds that feed in the area, part of which is a nature reserve. (Reuters)

## Students held

Delhi — Two young Birla university students arrested after hijacking a Thai Airways international plane to Calcutta have appeared in court there, the Press Trust of India said. They were charged under India's anti-hijacking and penal code. (AP)

## Mouth trap

Berlin — A set of false teeth may lead police to a thief who has stolen about \$3,000 from safes in former East Germany since September. The thief, aged between 20 and 25, lost his dentures when making his last escape, the ADN news agency said. Police are now seeking his dentist. (Reuters)

## Germans fear soccer violence

From Anne McElvoy in Berlin

THE last football match between East Germany and West Germany, scheduled for Leipzig later this month, may be called off after increasing football violence and attacks on the police in eastern Germany. Football officials, police representatives and citizens groups in the city held an all-day meeting yesterday to decide if the match could safely go ahead.

Leipzig's police spokesman, Peter Haimann, said yesterday that there was a 30 per cent chance that the match would be called off after public protests at the risk involved.

Citizens' groups have been campaigning against the game being played in a stadium they say is unsafe. Thomas Pfundt of New Forum described plans to hold the match in Leipzig as "a recipe for violence". He said: "This is like asking for a repeat of the Hoya disaster. Neither the stadium nor the police are equipped to face the sort of riot which could develop."

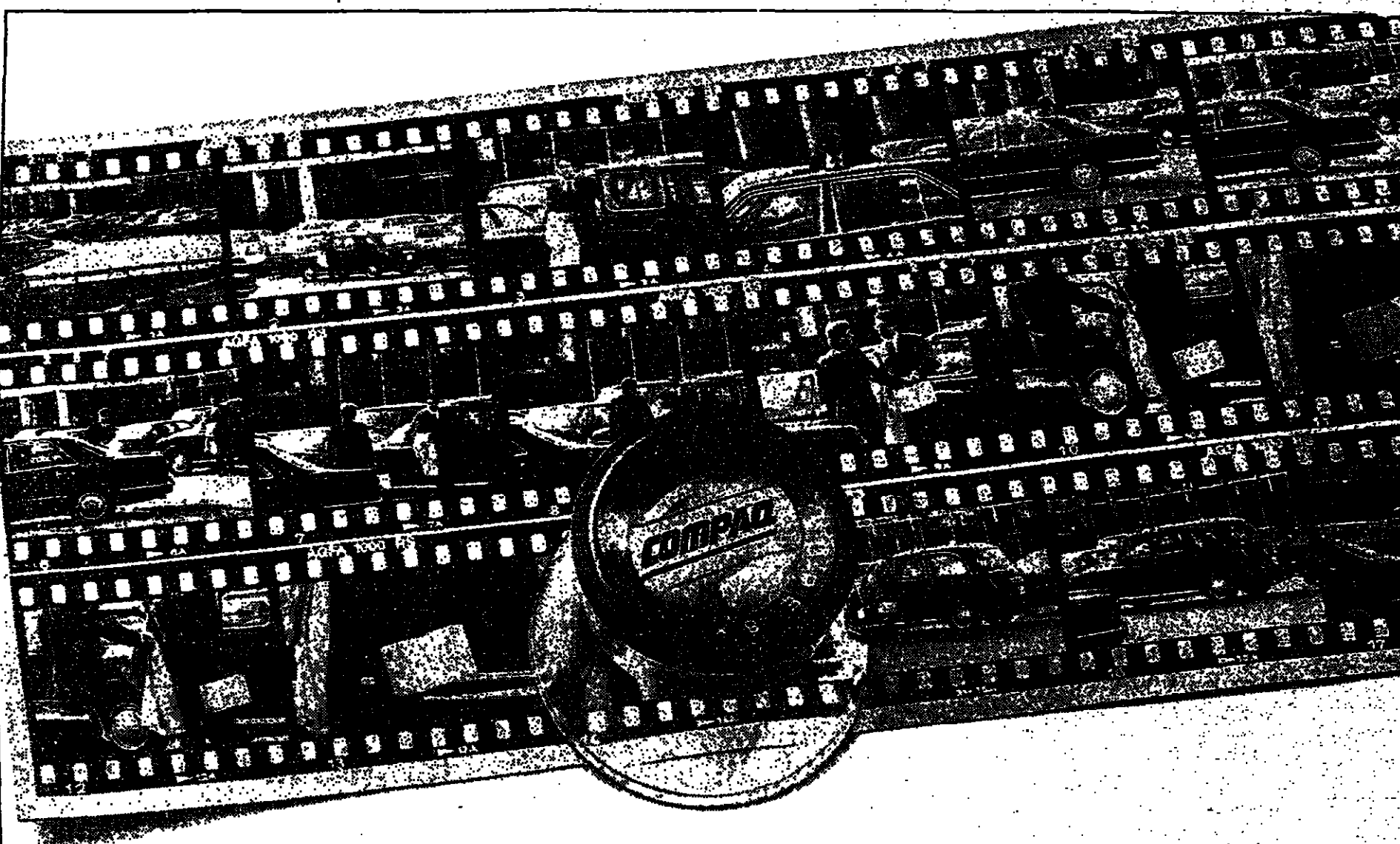
Football league officials in Bonn are to meet civil servants to discuss a wide-ranging change of tactics in

the policing of football matches in the federal republic, particularly in former East Germany.

Rioting broke out again at the weekend after a match between FC Rostock and FC Leipzig, with fans rampaging through Rostock's city centre. In Berlin more than 1,000 supporters marched to commemorate the death of Mike Poller, aged 18, who was shot dead by police in Leipzig during fighting before a match the previous weekend.

Since the fall of the communist regime Leipzig has rapidly developed a reputation for football violence. Crowd trouble at matches there has been occurring since the early 1980s. But the breakdown of confidence in the police and the structural disintegration which came after the fall of the Honecker regime have led to a sudden worsening. Police there have fired three times on football crowds this year.

The Leipzig force has been criticised for its handling of crowd violence and readiness to draw the gun, and morale among police there is low.



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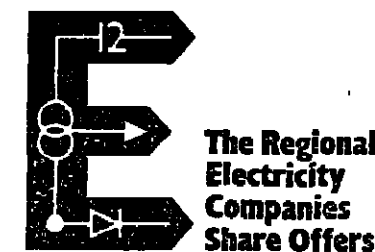
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# Battle-ready Tornado squadron suffers blow to morale

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN DHAHRAN

ON THE eve of a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia by Tom King, the defence secretary, members of the only fully operational unit of the British forces in the kingdom — the RAF's F3 Tornado intercepter squadron — yesterday bitterly criticised the decision to extend the tour of duty of its hundreds of men from three to six months.

The doubling of time spent in combat readiness will take effect shortly. The squadron, including 18 jet aircraft valued at more than £350 million, will be rotated over the next few weeks. Officers and men blame the move on attempts to bring the terms of RAF Gulf service in line with the army.

"The move to double the tour of duty has been a very bad blow to morale," said Squadron Leader Greg Morton, who is in charge of about 300 technicians keeping the Tornados up to scratch to fly their regular patrols up to and along the Iraqi border.

The squadron leader and senior officers who asked not to be identified see the extension as causing severe problems with families in Britain who have already been distressed by recent false stories in sections of the tabloid press (banned by the Saudis because of their pin-ups) asserting that war was imminent.

"The policy of rotation should be credible and humanitarian. RAF men are not used to being away in combat readiness for that long," one officer said. "We believe that as well as reflecting strategic considerations, an attempt is being made to bring us in line with the army. But they are used to tours of that length."

The first members of the squadron served only four weeks in Saudi Arabia

until they were replaced by a second wave who are now coming to the end of a tour which has been filled with false alarms about an imminent outbreak of hostilities.

Despite the current mood of relative relaxation, the squadron — whose planes are in the process of being painted with its proud new emblem "The Desert Eagles" — is permanently ready for war. Even members of the large ground crew never move more than a few yards without carrying their anti-chemical warfare suits and masks, which hang in grotesque lines on pegs outside their headquarters, situated together with American and Saudi airforce units in the huge King Abdul Aziz airbase.

It is considered a prime target for attack by Iraqi missiles and is defended by the Patriot anti-missile system. But as so often in the Gulf, old and new sit

side by side and outside many of the prefabricated units erected on the base sandbag shelters have been erected in case of a sudden attack.

American, British and Saudi pilots have been airborne on round-the-clock CAPs (Combat Air Patrols), each lasting four hours and designed to shoot down any Iraqi aircraft which tries to cross the Kuwait border. So far none has, although in the last two weeks, two have come close to doing so.

The Tornados, with speeds of more than 1,000mph, have a formidable armory dominated by Skyflash missiles capable of ticking off an enemy ship on a radar screen from more than 20 miles away.

Each plane (whose pilots cost £3 million a head to train and are normally graduates) also carries heat-seeking Sidewinder missiles mounted on pods beneath the wings. At the rear are

magnesium flares used to repel any similar attack from the modern day equivalent of "the Hun in the sun". For closer combat of the type still associated with the Battle of Britain, the Tornados also carry fast firing 27mm Mauser multi-barrelled cannons just forward of the two-man cockpit. Ironically, they are the German-made successor to the guns once installed in Messerschmitts and used to attack Spitfires and Hurricanes.

Yesterday, the engine of one of the Tornados rested on the tarmac ready to be flown home to England for repairs, a reminder of the problems of spare parts and maintenance now hitting the Iraqi air force, which remains something of an unknown quantity.

"To be combat ready, you have to fly a plane every day. It is not like a car, you have to be on top of it," explained

Captain John Room, aged 48, a former fighter pilot. "Either Saddam is cutting down on his training or he is using up vital consumables. It is a double-edged sword which ensures that sanctions will have their effect. But until there is fighting, we cannot know by how much."

The squadron leader, switched from a desk job in Whitehall to take up his present key position (he will begin flying in a few days after six weeks here on the ground) dismissed theories that any war would or could be fought only in the air. "I doubt it will be mainly an aerial war," he said in a cramped office surrounded by a jungle of camouflage netting. "Air power can only complete the job if Saddam's troops are not motivated. But if he can keep their morale up and keep them fighting, we will have to go in on the ground as well."

## Congress support for Bush's Gulf strategy crumbling

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

CRITICISM in Congress of President Bush's handling of the Gulf confrontation has increased sharply since his decision to send a million soldiers facing each other in the region by January.

Adding to the alarm expressed by Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate armed service committee, and other senior Democrats in weekend television interviews, Patrick Moynihan, chairman of the Senate's Near Eastern subcommittee, yesterday asserted that Mr Bush was on the way to wrecking his presidency, the US military and the prospects for a new post-Cold War collective security system through excessive haste.

The critics contend that last week's decision to dispatch

between 150,000 and 200,000 more US troops to the region is rushing the nation towards war before sanctions have had time to work and without adequate justification, authorisation or explanation.

These are concerns that Mr Bush must allay when he briefs congressional leaders at the White House tomorrow or the broad bipartisan support he has so far enjoyed could quickly crumble.

Not only Democrats are speaking out. Roger Mahoney, the conservative Archbishop of Los Angeles and chairman of the international policy committee of the US Catholic Conference, has sent the administration a letter detailing moral objections to the use of force. Dan Quayle, the vice-president, for the first time acknowledged the administra-

tion's concern about the "populist demagoguery" of the isolationist Republican right in a weekend interview.

"We have to deal with it... It is still a very small but vocal minority, but we have to be sure it does not get out of control," Mr Quayle said of the movement led principally by Pat Buchanan, President Reagan's former communications director and a possible challenger to Mr Bush for the 1992 Republican presidential nomination.

Mr Nunn and Mr Moynihan, a former US ambassador to the United Nations, urged the White House to give sanctions more time. "I haven't been told reasons why we have to rush this thing. Why not let the embargo work? ... War should be the last option," said Mr Nunn.

Both deplored the prospect of the full-frontal assault implied by the massive new deployment. "If George Bush wants his presidency to die in the Arabian sands he's going at it very steadily and as if it were a plan," said Mr Moynihan. Mr Nunn said for the US to get "bogged down in a ground war"



Look-out post: Tom King, the defence secretary, on board the frigate HMS London off Aden, trying out a target destination sight for the close-range, anti-aircraft Seawolf missile system

## Israel agrees to UN mission

FROM PAUL ADAMS  
IN JERUSALEM

DAVID Levy, Israel's foreign minister, said yesterday that his country would accept a United Nations emissary to discuss the occupied territories. The government hopes the agreement will reduce tension between Israel and the UN, but the proposal has yet to be accepted by Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general.

Officials here said that the mission would be "absolutely detached" from UN criticism of Israel's handling of last month's disturbances outside a mosque in Jerusalem, in which at least 17 Palestinians were shot dead by security forces. "Israel is ready to receive an emissary of the secretary-general, not on the basis of the security council resolution, which we reject," Mr Levy was reported to have said.

UN Security Council resolution 672, condemned violence by Israeli security forces and called on the secretary-general to send a mission to investigate what happened. Israel rejected the proposal, calling it an unacceptable challenge to its sovereignty over the whole of Jerusalem.

Israeli officials yesterday said that a visit by Jean-Claude Aïme, the secretary-general's adviser on Middle East affairs, would constitute the continuation of a mission started earlier in the year. He was last in Jerusalem in June in a similar fact-finding mission. A similar fact-finding mission reached after the killing of seven Arab workers in Israel.

Officials here said that the new visit would be unconditional, but indicated that they expected Washington to help reduce the heat at the UN.

Israeli press reports suggested that efforts to secure a US veto on further security council action had been rejected. US officials are thought to be in two minds over Señor Pérez de Cuellar's proposal for a meeting of the 164 signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention. Some officials reportedly favour such a meeting, arguing it would leave the council free to deal with the Gulf problem.

Professor Sari Nusseibeh, a prominent Palestinian academic, said a mission which failed to fulfil its initial mandate would be "pointless", adding: "This is simply a way of getting Israel and the US back on talking terms. What we need is a more serious investigative committee, leading to international protection."

## Mixed response to Arab summit call

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

MOROCCO'S call for an emergency Arab summit to avert war in the Gulf received an uncertain response from an Arab world united in the desire for a peaceful solution but deeply divided on how to achieve it.

Baghdad, which has insisted on an Arab solution, implicitly rejected King Hassan's appeal by setting conditions that were obviously unacceptable while two of its allies, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Mauritania, welcomed it. Jordan said it would decide when it received an official invitation but government sources in Amman said they would support a conference. There was no word last night from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria, Iraq's main Arab opponents. Iraq said it

was willing to attend only if it was consulted in advance on the time, venue and agenda, which it insisted must include discussion of other regional problems, particularly the Palestinian question. It said there should be no meeting while foreign forces were in Saudi Arabia.

King Hassan said he was willing to act as host, but would accept another venue. Iraq said it was imperative to find a venue that would enable President Saddam Hussein to attend, implying that the Moroccan capital was too far to go when Iraq was under threat of attack. No other leader offered to host the summit, which observers said might be boycotted by several states while Iraq continued to occupy Kuwait.

Mr Nunn feared logistical considerations and the onset of hot weather and the Muslim festival of Ramadan in March could now determine when the United States goes to war. "It would be a fundamental error for us to let logistics and weather conditions and religious ceremonies dictate the policy of war and peace."

Amir Taheri, page 16  
Leading article, page 17

## Mubarak rules out an attack

FROM SARAH GAUCH  
IN CAIRO

PRESIDENT Mubarak of Egypt has said his country would not enter Iraq if Western troops attacked, as questions continued over allied support should the US take the offensive.

Asked if he would agree to maintain order in Iraq if the US-led troops invaded, President Mubarak said: "No, we have nothing to do with Iraq." But he said: "We do not mind at all entering Kuwait as peace-keeping forces... although I do not hope for this day at all. I want everything to take place peacefully."

The interview was published yesterday in *Masr*, the newspaper of the ruling National Democratic party. It negates a US official statement at the weekend saying James Baker, the Secretary of State, was convinced Egypt and other Arab forces would back Western troops if they attacked Iraq.

Mr Mubarak offered to mediate between President Saddam Hussein and the West if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait. Egypt has been calling for a peaceful solution, but only on condition that Iraq withdraws and the Kuwaiti government is restored to power.

## EC appeals to non-aligned nations over hostages

FROM MICHAEL BRYON IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community is to ask more than forty Islamic and non-aligned nations to press Iraq to accept a United Nations envoy who could negotiate the release of all foreign hostages. The Twelve also agreed to look at ways of helping countries enforce a UN blockade on overland trade with Iraq.

EC foreign ministers agreed to appeal to the non-aligned movement and the Islamic Conference, hoping that this would quell pressures in the community for more private visits to Baghdad by elder statesmen. Countries such as Ireland, The Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark expressed concern yesterday that these visits were undermining the Rome summit declaration that EC members would not negotiate on an individual basis with President Saddam Hussein.

Britain, which strongly criticised the recent Brandt mission to Baghdad, proposed the appeal to the non-aligned nations. "Only by standing four-square behind the efforts of the UN secretary-general can the international community resist the Iraqi tactic of exploiting the hostages to try to divide the alliance against them," said Tristan Garel Jones, the junior Foreign Of-

fice minister standing in for Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, defended the Brandt mission, saying it was a humanitarian action that did not involve any negotiation with the Iraqis.

The EC proposal was put directly yesterday to five North African countries, including Libya, whose foreign ministers were here for a summit luncheon with their EC counterparts. The meeting was the first between the Twelve and the newly-formed

Maghreb Union, comprising Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania.

Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the Algerian foreign minister, said after the lunch that the five Maghreb countries would help, but only if the EC lifted all remaining sanctions against Libya. He said the five condemned any breach of international law, but also warned against the destruction of any Arab country, including Iraq. He said war in the Gulf would mean disaster.

Britain, which broke diplomatic links with Libya after the shooting of a policewoman by a Libyan diplomat, said it would not agree to any EC aid to Libya, but did not object if Libya benefited from general, closer relations between the Maghreb Union and the EC.

In Baghdad, 11 British women who defied the government's advice and flew to Iraq said yesterday that they were "absolutely delighted" to be reunited with their husbands (Reuters reports).

They said they hoped to meet President Saddam to plead for their husbands' release but had been given no guarantees that they would be set free. "We have to be optimistic but offering false hopes is unfair," Carol Cox, one of the group said.



Brandt: Britain strongly criticised his mission

## Scepticism greets pull-out by Lebanon militias

MOHAMAD Hawli was indifferent to the convoys of militiamen and weaponry withdrawing from the city during the past two days. He did not bother to remove the sandbags and debris with which he had protected his home and shop from last year's gunbattles.

Like him, many Lebanese think the government peace plan which aims to demilitarise and reunify Beirut, and subsequently the country, is unlikely to succeed.

Mustapha Inja, a retired pilot aged 56, said it was all *déjà vu*. "We have seen the militias pull out before. In 1983, all crossing points were opened and even the devastated downtown district was restored," he said. "But at the slightest sign of trouble the militias popped up from nowhere and started fighting again. There are no guarantees that this will not happen again."

The government of pro-Syrian President Elias Hrawi, boosted by the successful Syrian attack on October 13 against General Michel Aoun, the rebel Christian leader, gave an ultimatum to all militias to leave Beirut by

November 19. Government officials say they want to establish a militia-free zone in and around the capital controlled solely by the Lebanese army so that they can revive the economy.

So far about half the estimated 10,000 Shia militiamen of the mainstream Amal organisation have left the capital with their weapons. The rest, according to Amal officials, have stayed in Beirut, but as civilians.

Druze sources said as many as 7,000 Druze militiamen have been laid off. Only about 1,000 have been kept under arms, and are preparing to join the Lebanese police and army. The hardline Christian militia, the Lebanese Forces, which fought Muslim, Syrian and Palestinian forces throughout the civil war, started on Sunday to gather fighters and armour at its headquarters in east Beirut and prepared to move north. Hezbollah, the Muslim fan-

atical group, has reportedly moved its heavy weapons, gunmen and the 13 foreigners it has been holding hostage here to remote areas of eastern and southern Lebanon. The group said it would fight Israel in the south and had no intention of dismantling its military machine.

The deal that President Hrawi struck with the factions was described by the agriculture minister, Muhsen Dallal, in a single sentence: "Leave your militias and join the government."

The prime minister, Salim Hoes, said a new government of about 30 ministers would be formed after the militias had left Beirut. Officials said the six main factions would be represented in the cabinet by ministers without portfolio while the rest of the seats would go to professional administrators.

However, Beirut has been living without mains electricity since January. Water sup-

plies have been cut off and the telephone system has broken down. The price of six barrels of water has climbed to \$20 (£10) while electricity from generators set up across the city by businessmen costs at least \$60 a month. To the average Lebanese who earns about \$120 a month, living here is a nightmare.

Edmond Rizk, the information minister, once blamed the deterioration on the rebellion of General Aoun. "But now, nearly a month after Aoun was ousted, we still have no water in our taps and there is still no electricity," said Lamis Hachem, a Christian housewife aged 60. Her husband Ibrahim, aged 70, has been stuck in their six-floor flat. "He cannot climb the stairs," she said.

Christians living in other parts of central Lebanon that were conquered by the Syrians on October 13 are experiencing another kind of anxiety. The bloody Syrian thrust into their areas has brought a sense of defeat and pessimism. Village-dwellers lock themselves indoors as soon as they come from work. "You cannot label what is going on as a peace plan," said Joseph Haddad, a businessman aged 30. "The

Christians were simply defeated and are now accepting terms of surrender set by the Muslims and Syrians."

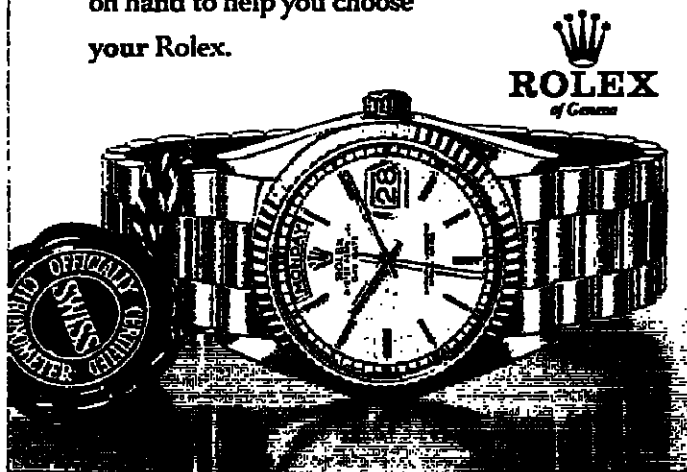
But politicians and Middle East experts agree that Lebanon is now on the right track for solving its 15-year conflict. Ahmad Ayash, a columnist on the newspaper *an-Nahar*, said the end of the cold war had had positive effects on Lebanon. "The US and the Soviet Union have stopped using the Lebanese arena. Syria has shifted alliances and is now in the same ditch as the Americans in the Gulf. The Palestine Liberation Organisation is no longer a player in Lebanon's political game and for the first time since the war started, the Christians agreed to give concessions to the Muslims. These factors form a serious basis for a lasting solution here."

Ghassan Twinn, the publisher of *An-Nahar*, linked the government's peace efforts to the political changes that have swept over Europe and many international flashpoints. "Nobody can stop the spring from coming to Lebanon," he said. Other Lebanese are merely being pragmatic. "Enjoy peace while it lasts," said Dalal Saoud, a journalist.

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## Guatemalan voters put their faith in right-wing outsider

From ALAN TOMLINSON IN GUATEMALA CITY

GENERAL elections in Guatemala have resulted in a rout for the ruling Christian Democrats and the emergence of a conservative outsider as the favourite to become the country's next president.

Jorge Serrano Elias, an American-educated businessman, swept ahead of two right-wing rivals in Sunday's ballot to ensure his place in a run-off on January 6.

With returns still trickling in from rural areas yesterday, it was not clear whether he would face Jorge Carpio, a newspaper publisher, or Alvaro Arzu, a former mayor of Guatemala City, in the second round.

Campaign aides to Señor Serrano, who had trailed in third place in the opinion polls, said he had picked up votes that would have gone to retired general Efraín Ríos Montt, disqualified last month by a constitutional statute banning former dictators from returning to office.

Señor Serrano served in the short-lived Ríos Montt government in 1982-3 and, like the banned general, is a fer-

vent member of the growing Evangelical Church in Guatemala. An endorsement from his friend and former mentor would probably ensure a Serrano victory in January.

If so, he has said, he will form a coalition government and start official peace talks to end the country's 30-year guerrilla insurgency. But the main task, he said yesterday, would be to restore Guatemala's shaken faith in democratically elected civilian government.

In surveys before the election, most Guatemalans expressed deep disappointment with democracy and a yearning for authoritarian government, which has been the norm here.

They blamed President Vinicio Cerezo, elected in a landslide victory five years ago after almost two decades of military rule, for failing to halt human-rights abuses by the army and permitting rampant official corruption during a steep economic decline. Voters punished the incumbent Christian Democrats with an ignominious 9 per

cent of the poll. "We have to bring back the confidence of the people that democracy really works," said Señor Serrano.

"Right now people have the idea it is a system that only helps those who are in government."

"There's tremendous disillusionment," agreed Candida Lineres, a schoolteacher in the highland town of Sololá where long lines of brightly dressed Indians waited impassively in a chilling wind to cast their votes on Sunday.

Indians form the majority of Guatemala's nine million population but are virtually unrepresented in politics. Many of them appeared ignorant of the names of the leading candidates.

"Why shouldn't they be?" asked the local priest, Father Pedro Bocel, adding that most Indians regarded politics as a game played by the wealthy white elite in the capital. At campaign headquarters in Guatemala City it was the well-heeled children of the oligarchy who celebrated with fireworks early yesterday.



All aboard: relieved commuters in Karachi riding on the engine of a train as a nationwide public transport strike over Islamic law took hold.

## Strike poses test for Pakistan's new leader

From ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

THE government of Nawaz Sharif, which came to power in Pakistan last week, faces its first test over the enforcement of Islamic law as a nationwide transport strike against Sharia yesterday paralysed the country.

The strikers were protesting against a law related to payment of blood money, promulgated by President

Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Under this law, in the event of a fatal accident, the driver or vehicle owner must pay 170,000 rupees (£4,000) to the deceased's family.

Strikers from transport concerns demand that this be withdrawn, saying death in accidents cannot be equated with murder. The strike started in Punjab province five days ago and the stoppage has now spread to the other provinces. In Karachi's industrial and financial centre, all economic activ-

ities came to a halt as the strike took hold, causing rising tension in the city. Streets remained deserted.

The Islamic Democratic Alliance government of Mr Sharif is committed to enforcing Islamic law. However, a division has already appeared in the coalition, which is comprised of ideologically diverse elements, over such a move. The majority of Mr Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League are opposed to the Sharia bill, which has been passed by the upper house and is

soon to be presented to the assembly for debate. They maintain the bill will intensify sectarian conflict.

In his first policy address on television last week, Mr Sharif avoided the subject of Sharia. Observers believe Jamaat Islami and other fundamentalist organisations may put pressure on Mr Sharif to fulfil his commitment for immediate enforcement of Islamic law.

The opposition leader, Benazir Bhutto, warned of further unrest.

## Hong Kong police seize boat people freed by court

By PAUL MOONEY IN HONG KONG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AUTHORITIES in Hong Kong yesterday rearrested a group of Vietnamese boat people immediately after a High Court judge declared their 18-months' detention illegal and set them free, but the group vowed to keep fighting for their rights.

The 111 Vietnamese arrived in Hong Kong on May 1, 1989, seeking provisions and repairs for their boat before continuing on to Japan. Judge Raymond Sears said the group had never intended to stay in Hong Kong and that the government, by its unlawful detention of the Vietnamese, had infringed the international covenant on political and civil rights.

Mr Sears said the Hong Kong government should be "ashamed" for detaining the Vietnamese for 18 months, an act, he said, not expected in a civilised society. He granted the group a writ of habeas corpus against their illegal detention.

He warned the authorities not to try to rearrest the Vietnamese, but as eight representatives of the group left the court they were surrounded by an estimated 25 police and immigration officers, who put the refugees into vans and sent them to prison.



A Vietnamese celebrating his brief victory yesterday

The other 103 members of the group, who had waited in Whitehead Detention Centre for the result of the trial, were arrested several hours later and all are now being detained in Victoria prison.

"We have no intention of giving up the fight," said one of eight Vietnamese representing the boat people. "If the government has no intention of (recognising) the law, we are going to fight," he said as police struggled to hold back journalists when immigration officers arrested him.

A lawyer representing the boat people challenged the action of the immigration officers, demanding to see their written authorisation for the arrests. "I am acting under the authority of Hong Kong's laws," an officer told him.

The eight representatives told the court earlier in the day that they had intended to travel on to Japan where they would have been granted refugee status, but that the government had declared their boat no longer seaworthy and had placed them in detention camps.

The government announced that it would study the court's decision very closely and would consider whether to appeal. The Vietnamese will be detained pending an investigation. A statement issued by the Hong Kong government on Monday evening said: "As it appears that they have no right to land in Hong Kong, it is likely that they will then be detained pending their removal from Hong Kong."

Alistair Asprey, the secretary for security, asked later about the arrests, said: "The director of immigration was perfectly in order to detain them. They entered Hong Kong without any authority, without any legal documents."

Leading article, page 17

## ANC activists held amid coup fears

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SECURITY forces in the Bophuthatswana tribal homeland took action against the African National Congress yesterday, detaining more than sixty activists under emergency legislation after allegedly uncovering a plot to assassinate President Lucas Mangope.

The announcement from Mr Mangope's office coincided with a strike called by trade union leaders affiliated to the ANC to back demands for the recognition of South African-based trade unions, and the reintegration of the territory into South Africa.

The ANC rejected the conspiracy allegation as absurd and said it was "one more example of an unpopular regime trying to postpone its demise by repression". It called for the immediate release of all detainees.

The confrontation in the nominally independent state, in reality a jigsaw of seven tracts of land scattered across three provinces, has been looming since President de Klerk launched his reform initiatives in February and removed bans on the ANC.

Mr Mangope is fighting a rearguard action against ANC

activists, who regard him as a repressive legacy of the bantustan system.

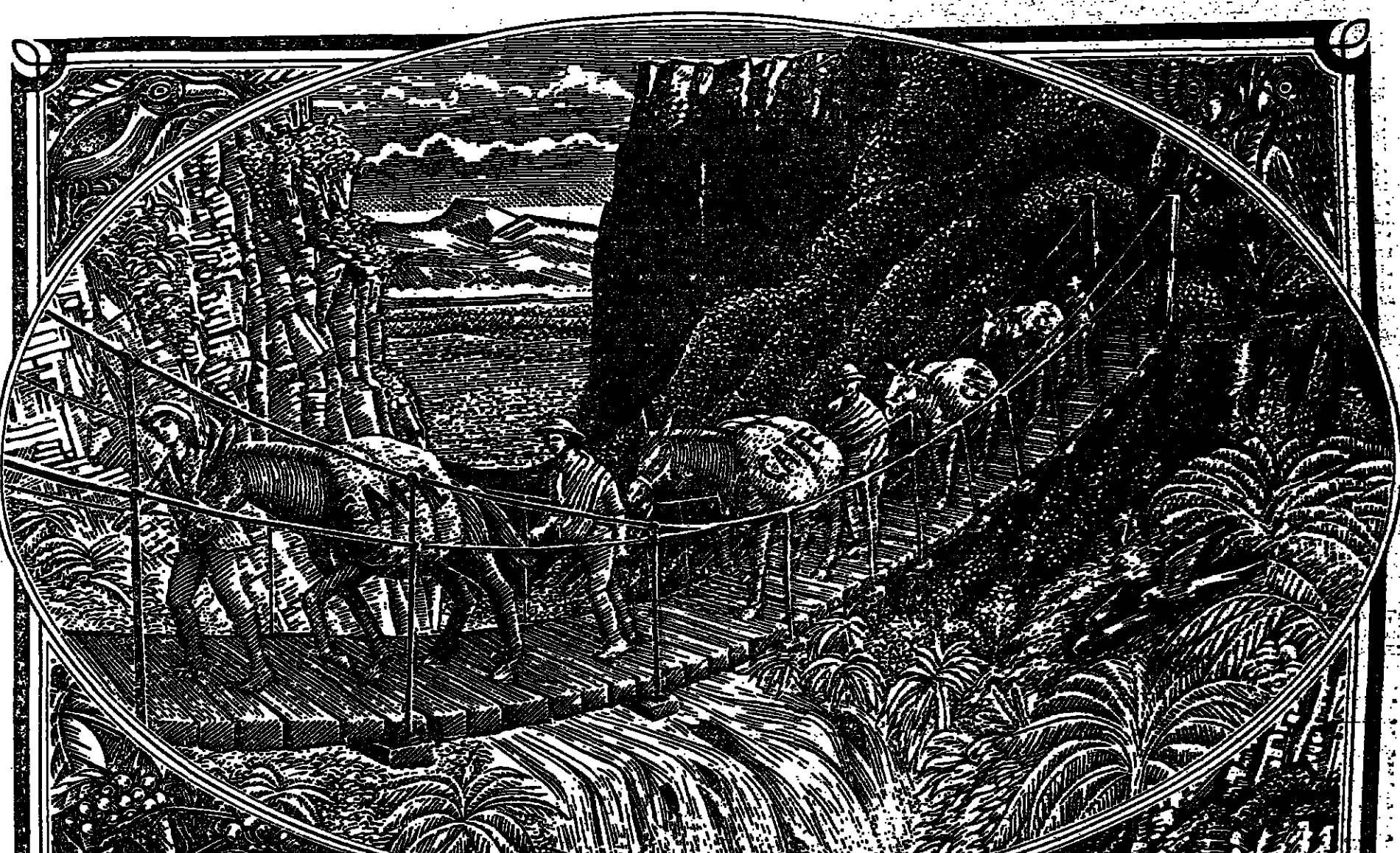
Seven people were killed and hundreds of others were wounded in March when his security forces opened fire on more than fifty thousand people demanding his resignation.

The defiant president, aged 66, has declared his "nation" would remain independent "for the next hundred years", but nurtures dreams of a merger with Botswana.

The latest threat to his regime follows an announcement that 121 soldiers and seven opposition politicians, serving prison sentences in Bophuthatswana for involvement in an abortive coup in 1988, have applied to join the ANC.

Mr Mangope was understood to be planning to leave Bophuthatswana today to spend ten days at a health resort in Germany, and rumours of an impending coup were rife.

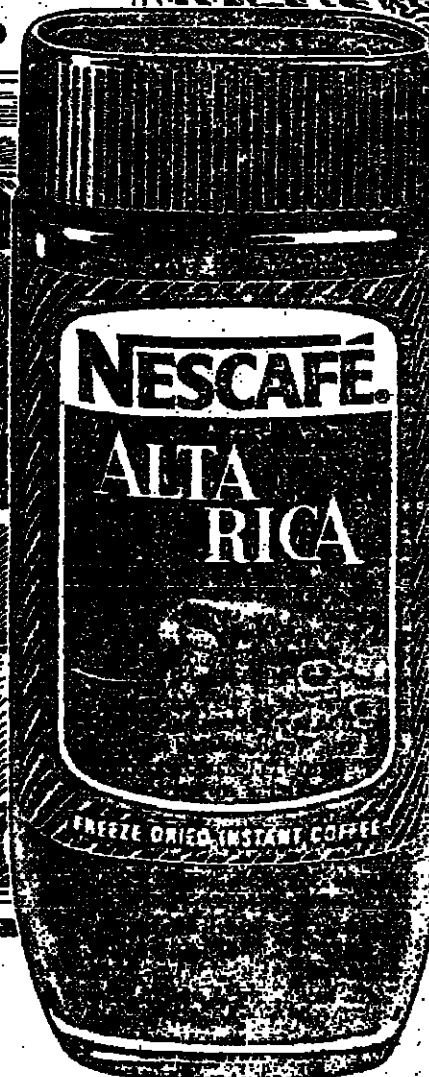
In his absence the territory will be run by Rowan Cronje, the minister of state affairs and a former minister in the Rhodesian government of Ian Smith.



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# A future of quiet decline

Martin Jacques

Perhaps Mrs Thatcher will find off any challenges who come her way this week. Perhaps she will survive until the next election. And then, with the aid of a minor miracle, perhaps she will scrape home with a narrow majority. But even given this rather unlikely outcome, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that we are witnessing the end of an era, the end not only of Mrs Thatcher but also of the *Thatcherism* that is named after her. The question is, what will follow the era now in its death throes?

By this, I do not mean which party will win the next election. Rather, I refer to the kind of politics that will dominate the post-Thatcherite era. In this context, it is worth reminding ourselves what Thatcherism was all about. It was a response to the mess of the 1970s, the profound sense of malaise and ungovernability. It was also a reaction to Britain's long decline and the yearning for something to be done about it. The Thatcherite agenda was radical: to reverse decline, to revolutionise our institutions, to ditch the old consensus, to think long-term, to administer a shock to the whole system.

All the signs are that the tone of the post-Thatcher era will be quite different. After the flood will come tranquility. Consensus will replace confrontation. And political ambitions will be scaled down accordingly. A Labour government, to be sure, will have no strong project of its own. That is evident from the manner in which it seeks to take advantage of the Tories' present discomfort, namely by keeping quiet. Labour would get through by muddling along.

But what about the Tories? The key figures in the cabinet now are John Major and Douglas Hurd. Both eschew the radical edge: both would feel very much at home in a one-party Tory party. Michael Heseltine is a little different. In many ways he apes the style of the prime minister. He likes to be seen as strong and he conveys the impression of thinking strategically, but in substance his policies would differ little from those of a Labour government.

In short, the post-Thatcher era will be quite different from the Thatcherite period. It will be characterised by a reaction against Thatcherism and its perceived failure which will extend to a more general reaction against the whole idea of radical projects. The post-Thatcher era will see a return to the kind of pragmatism and consensus that prevailed before the arrival of Mrs Thatcher at Number 10.

But does this mean that the Thatcherite era will come to be seen as an aberrant episode in Britain's modern political history, the one and only period in which

the electorate opted for a radical strategy in response to the painful experience of unending decline?

A society like ours, which has been in relative decline for so long, finds it extraordinarily difficult to change its habits. Its modes of thought, practices and institutions are weighed down by the past. It finds enormous difficulty in generating a new strategic vision or conceiving a new sense of national will. Short-termism predominates throughout society. There is very good reason to believe that Britain will never succeed in breaking out of this cultural mentality. My bet is that our future will be one of genteel decline presided over by political pragmatism.

At this point it is worth reflecting on why Thatcherism failed. Like so many radical experiments, Thatcherism was always an outsider, estranged from the society it sought to change. This is one of the reasons why it managed to generate and then sustain a long-term view of its own ambitions. But to succeed in its objectives, Thatcherism needed at some stage to become an insider, to acquire deep and well-dispersed roots. This it never did. Moreover, Thatcherism's forte was its capacity to administer shock-treatment. What it lacked was a strategy adequate to the post-shock situation. As a result, Thatcherism ultimately failed in its aims.

Although societies in decline such as our own find renewal extremely difficult, it is not impossible. The most obvious example is our closest neighbour, France. Like Britain, it experienced a long period of post-imperial decline, but then, starting with de Gaulle and the Fifth Republic, France managed to find a new sense of national purpose. However, there is one crucial difference between France and Britain. Britain, as the first industrial nation, has lodged in its cultural psyche a deep antipathy to the state. This is why, when Britain's first radical response to decline emerged — in the shape of Thatcherism — it had at its heart a profound, almost irrational, hostility to the state. Yet the idea that a new sense of national will can be created without a major role for the state is patently absurd. France has never had this hang-up.

Finally, pragmatism may become the dominant ethos of the 1990s, but the '90s will be very different from the '50s and '60s. Those decades were characterised by rising living standards. By contrast, the '90s offer little prospect of this. What is more, the long-running identity crisis that has afflicted Britain in the post-imperial epoch is likely to grow more acute in a world that is changing so quickly. To me this looks like a recipe for political instability. That is of course where Thatcherism came in.

...and moreover

## ALAN COREN

If all our knowledge is ourselves to know, then those who like nothing more than to curl up in front of a roaring fire with Alexander Pope can count themselves fortunate indeed that the tiny wag was born too soon to push a trolley round Boots. Had he done so, his creative ambitions would never have reached the point at which the universe's deeper truths were to be addressed; emerging once more upon the pavement of Finchley Road with his bulging bags of toilet requisites, he would have scuttled home to write not the *Essay on Man* but the *Essay on Sensitive Teeth*. This he might well have followed up, a deliberative year or so later, with the *Essay on Brittle Hair*, subsequently crowning what would by then have become a less than illustrious career with the *Essay on Delicate Skin* and its companion epic, the *Essay on Serious Perspiration*.

For these days, who among us can find the time to get to know himself philosophically, when just getting to know himself physically grows more and more difficult with every passing marketing fad? I went into Boots last Saturday at ten o'clock, and when I came out again at half-past, all that I knew about myself was that I now knew less. Daily, my body was becoming more and more impenetrable: here I was, in middle life, at that point when I should be addressing such questions as why are we all here? where are we all going? and what's it all about? and so on, and I did not have even a working knowledge of the thing depending from my hat.

The Boots trip was a major expedition. We had suddenly run out of everything simultaneously, and while our various bathroom cabinets were normally restocked on a spasmodic basis by this member of the family or that, the present occasion called for a comprehensive foray if we were not to become pariahs: self-love and social are the same, as Pope himself said, even though he didn't know he was talking about deodorant and bath gel.

Of both of which there are, of course, unpeeped varieties. As many as there are different shampoos, soaps, shaving-

creams, toothpastes and, after these have done their primary work, secondary things to splash over, gargle with, massage in, squirt between, rub on, apply under, and so forth, until there is not a preposition left unused. Now, I had not hitherto paid much attention to these items when, as I mentioned, a solo bar or tube or bottle had to be summarily snatched for a specific emergency, but this time was different: my remit was totally to replenish, and, furthermore, bulk-buying seemed sensible. To this end, I began reading labels. It was a grave error.

I counted 17 sorts of hair, but not only did I not know the categories into which the rest of the family fell, I did not even know mine. What is this? What is brittle? How lifeless is lifeless, how unmanageable unmanageable? Is greasy oilier than oily, or vice-versa? Did it need revitalising, or merely conditioning? Where did its body lie on the national business scale? I finally grabbed a dozen bottles of something pH-balanced with silk protein and enriching moisturisers, which may very well raise barley on my scalp come spring, only because time was pressing and I needed toothpaste.

But did I have sensitive teeth? How could I know? Might my teeth be not merely indifferent, but callous? Brutal even? And how tender does a gum have to be before it requires .05 per cent of an additive bent on sorting it out? How discoloured should discoloured be before special care must be taken when applying something to undicolour it? The deodorant shelf needed to know if I had serious perspiration. What is it? Do your boots fill constantly from your upper catarracts? If mine is frivolous perspiration and I spray serious stuff on, will my pores snap shut and my impermeable body slowly swell with incarcerated sweat? As for bath-gel and shaving-cream, the choice of both depended on whether the skin was or wasn't delicate. What is mine? If it's crude, will my dirt and bristles refuse to budge? How can I know? What shall I buy? Whom should I ask?

What mighty contests rise from trivial things!

Amir Taheri believes the suggested summit would only play into Saddam Hussein's hands

# Why there can be no Arab solution

The emergency Arab summit suggested by King Hassan of Morocco to find an "Arab solution" to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait is another example of how this confrontation is being exploited by Arab politicians for their own interests. The Moroccan king is merely using the rhetoric of Arab nationalism to protect his own political back as the possibility of war grows. He knows that his conservative regime, currently under pressure because of violations of human rights, is vulnerable to fundamentalist propaganda whipped up in North Africa by Iraq and the PLO.

King Hussein of Jordan also claims that the confrontation is an Arab family feud and that intervention by outsiders is an attack on Arab *irhd*, or honour, but he must balance the Palestinian presence in his kingdom against his dependence on the West. To the ordinary Arab, *irhd* is an emotionally charged word. In the name of *irhd*, an angry bedouin might murder a daughter or sister because of real or imagined dishonour from the path of chastity. Murder within the clan is still protected by the law of silence.

Fortunately not all Arabs share King Hussein's bedouin ethics. To them a crime is a crime, whether committed within the family or outside. In this sense, they have already become part of the modern world. They realise that talk of an Arab solution is just a mirage. As one Tunisian diplomat said to me recently: "The archives of the Arab League in Tunis are full of Arab problems waiting for Arab solutions."

Almost all Arab states owe their shape on the map to Western colonial designs, and regard the world as it is today as principally a Western construct. Such eminently Western values as the rule of law and the inviolability of borders have been adopted by many Arabs from all walks of life. Their condemnation of Israel's occupation of Jerusalem and other Arab territory is in the name of precisely such concepts, and they have fought nearly a dozen wars among themselves on border questions. (In 1988 Bahrain and Qatar fought a Ruritania-scale naval battle because of a territorial dispute.) Arab rulers have never hesitated to call on outsiders when their

power is threatened. And they regard it as only natural that the West should help to safeguard frontiers that it created. King Hussein's throne was saved by British and American troops in 1958. Sultan Qabus of Oman crushed a rebellion in the 1970s with military help from Britain and Iran. The South Yemeni communists clung to power with the help of Cuban troops and East German military advisers. In 1974, Saddam Hussein placed thousands of Soviet advisers along Iraq's border with Iran to discourage the Shah from launching an invasion.

An "Arab solution" could only mean final annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. The current military and diplomatic pressure on Iraq would be removed in exchange for an Arab initiative to open talks on the future of Kuwait. Such talks could last months, if not years, giving Saddam Hussein time to kill or expel the 300,000 or so Kuwaitis still in the emirate.

The Arabs of the Gulf are not alone in their firm rejection of the "Arab solution". The Syrians oppose it because they do not want Saddam Hussein to emerge as top

dog in the region. The idea of a Fertile Crescent — Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine — is popular in Syria, but most Syrians want this dream to come true not under Iraqi leadership but with Syria in the vanguard.

The Egyptians oppose the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait for similar reasons. They want the Arab world united, but under Egypt's leadership and on the basis of popular action rather than invasion.

All the other countries of the Arab world, especially in North Africa, are deeply divided. Some Algerian and Tunisian politicians support Iraq as part of a larger demagogic scheme of their own. The presence in Tunis of the PLO and its political and financial machine is also a factor in whipping up support for the so-called "Arab solution", which favours Iraq.

Some non-Arab apologists for Saddam Hussein also try to promote the "Arab solution" in the name of respect for "cultural peculiarities" and the "national traditions" of the peoples of the Gulf. In Baghdad yesterday China's foreign minister said the invasion of Kuwait was "an Arab affair".

The closer the prospect of war, the more governments are likely to use the idea that this is a local conflict to justify their distancing themselves from it.

Quite apart from the question of the future of the region's oilfields, these apologists forget that an expanded Iraq (which one day soon would have nuclear weapons) threatens not only the Arab states but many other countries in the region and beyond. Iran, Turkey and Israel will be immediately in danger, for Iraq has territorial and other claims against all of them.

Not every action can be justified by reference to real or imagined "national traditions". There is no Arab justification for the destruction of an independent, sovereign state. Many "traditions", ranging from wife-beating to slavery and cannibalism stand condemned as repulsive. They cannot be explained away by references to *irhd*. The same is true of the tribal tradition of the strong crushing the weak. The whole world has a duty to intervene against Iraq.

Amir Taheri is the author of *Caucasus: The Middle East Behind the Headlines* (Hutchinson).

Anatole Kaletsky, economics editor, says politics will dictate how Britain fares

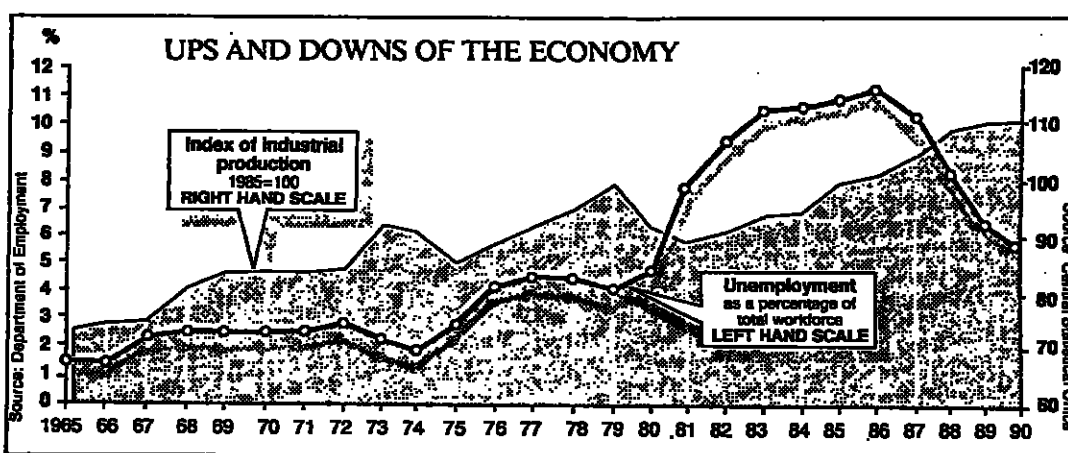
# How deep a recession? Not as bad as the one to come

Welcome to the next recession. For the past nine years, as the British economy has steadily recovered from the traumatic shakeout of the early 1980s, sceptics have warned that it would only be in "the next recession" that the political and economic miracles of Thatcherism would truly be put to the test. But as the ringing of bells and the roar of new cars drowned the warnings of the cynics, more and more people began to think there might never be another recession.

There was a fine dramatic irony on Sunday, therefore, when John Major finally announced on television that Britain was in recession, as Mrs Thatcher sat in 10 Downing Street preparing for the most decisive week of her political career.

The question now for both the country and the Conservative party is whether a recession will be a brief inconvenience, as suggested by the Treasury's official forecasts, or a disaster in the style of 1979-81. The trivial answer is that it could be either. More to the point is that the depth and pain of a recession depends on the political and economic purposes it has to serve. For a recession is never an arbitrary act of God. In a modern economy, the government has the ability to revive growth, at least short term. A recession continues and deepens when government chooses not to exercise this prerogative, usually to further some larger political or economic end.

But before considering this question, it is worth looking at the history of past business cycles to see what kind of threat a recession might pose. In the past 30 years there have been six recessions, using the standard statistical definition of two successive quarters in which gross domestic product declines. The good news is that in five of those six recessions, GDP began to grow again after a mere six months of decline. At present, government officials point to this historic record in answer to scepticism about the economy's ability to stage a spontaneous recovery in the first half of next year. However, from a political standpoint,



Keynes (left) and Friedman: the men who shaped the debate on economic management versus free-market forces



dramatic change in the structure of the British economy — a Thatcher miracle — has really occurred in the last ten years.

To see this requires a brief theoretical digression. Since Milton Friedman led the monetarist revolution against Keynesian economics, governments around the world have claimed that they could not influence unemployment or economic output. Instead politicians, led by Mrs Thatcher, have insisted that they had only one legitimate macroeconomic objective — a lower rate of inflation. All efforts to boost output would be in vain, simply producing additional inflation. In retrospect, these monetarist claims have looked increasingly like an ideological deception, albeit one that was an unavoidable political necessity given the conditions of the late 1970s.

Economies around the world were suffering from chronic inflation, labour unrest and attempted power plays by Third World commodity producers such as Opec. The only way to combat the inflationary psychosis was with a deep and prolonged recession, making it impossible for unions to demand inflationary wages and fatally weakening the commodity cartels. However, the only way that democratic societies could accept recessions deep and long enough to perform these purgative functions was by electing politicians who believed, and could persuade the voters, that unemployment was an unavoidable evil — that, in Mrs Thatcher's

celebrated phrase — there was no alternative.

Today, however, the political background is different. Officially, monetarism may remain the dominant economic ideology, but it is not strictly practised anywhere in the world. Once the great inflation subsided in the mid-1980s, policy-makers in Britain, America, Japan and even the international institutions like the IMF gradually reverted to a new variant of demand management. The main legacy of monetarism has been to establish interest rates, rather than taxes and public spending, as the main instrument for steering the economy along the narrow path between excessive inflation and inadequate growth.

In principle, therefore, the government now has the policy tools and the ideological flexibility to avert a serious recession. Some questions remain, however, about its ability to use them. The Chancellor could cut interest rates quite rapidly in the next few months, for example, but that would probably mean devaluing the pound by 5 per cent or so, to the bottom of its ERM band.

The Treasury's fear of taking such a step points to the fundamental problem that the government now faces. The Treasury feels that only commitment to the ERM stands between Britain and another bout of disastrous inflation. Another way of saying this is that the purgative objectives of the 1979-81 recession were not in fact achieved. From this point of view, which now seems to be shared by a surprising number of economists from across the political and professional spectrum, Britain may need another deep recession to complete the disinflationary process that began in the 1980s.

Even if this is true, it does not necessarily mean that the government will allow a long recession, only that a pre-election recovery may have to be followed by another, tougher squeeze in the mid-1990s, whichever party is returned to power. Even for Mrs Thatcher, political survival may seem more important than the crusade against inflation in the year ahead.

## If it comes to the push...

Even if Mrs Thatcher is defeated in a leadership election — or decides to stand down after seeing the extent of the opposition against her — she need not immediately summon the removal vans to Number 10, the normal practice when a prime minister comes off second best in a general election.

Constitutional experts say that if she is narrowly defeated in a first ballot, requiring a second seven days later which she would not contest, she can remain as prime minister until the outcome of the second vote is known. If a third ballot is required, two days after that, she can still defer tendering her resignation to the Queen until the final vote has been counted.

There is also one other extreme option: Lord Gilmham, an expert on constitutional history, says: "The prime minister could ignore the vote if she wanted to, and she could then be forced out only if the House of Commons passed a vote of no confidence in her. But it's all an unlikely scenario. The speculation makes my nose turn up and my lips curl."

Lord Blake, the Conservative party historian, says: "People must remember that this is an election for party leader, not prime minister. If, however, she were to stand down before the final outcome, the cabinet would appoint someone to preside over its meetings. The choice might well be the second person in the cabinet pecking order, the Lord Chancellor."

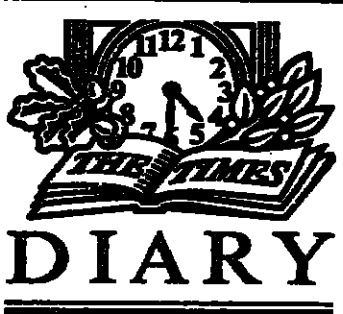
Buckingham Palace was unwilling to become involved in the speculation. A spokeswoman said: "The only constitutional position involved would be for the Sovereign to accept the resignation of the prime minister, and to receive the new one."

If there is a ballot next Tuesday, there is one vote Mrs Thatcher will not have: her own. She is scheduled to attend the Paris conference on European security and cooperation and will not be back until Wednesday.

Like a dinosaur responding slowly to the news that someone is stepping on its tail, British Satellite Broadcasting is taking a while to fade from existence. Even though it officially disappeared when it merged with Sky, posters advertising its forthcoming attractions are still up. But no more will appear, and ads in the press have stopped. Bad luck on *Battle Bogle* Hegarty, the advertising agency that looked BSB's media space. Any refunds are the subject of negotiation — a test for the persuasive powers of even the most effective agency.

In for the cull Yachtsman turned writer Clare Francis is looking for a team of sharpshooters to help cull the nation's deer. Francis, one of the surprise contenders in the great National Trust deer-hunting debate, is a supporter of the Somerset and Devon Residents Association for Deer Protection, the group that proposed the successful resolution to end deer hunting on Trust land, at the Trust's recent annual meeting.

"It's not true that everyone opposed to hunting is emotional and doesn't live in the real world," says Francis. "I recognise that deer have to be culled, but I think it should be done by marksmen with suitable rifles."



deer have to be culled, but I think it should be done by marksmen with suitable rifles."

She even suggests a way to maintain deer herds in the absence of hunters and in the face of farmers intent on destroying them as pests. "There needs to be a controlling body," she says. "In Scotland they have rangers — experienced people who know how it should be done. I once went out with one in Argyllshire."

Pipped and piqued Trevor McDonald's lightning trip to Baghdad to interview Saddam Hussein for ITN has left in its wake a disconsolate John Simpson, the BBC's foreign editor. He has been bombarding the presidential palace with requests for an interview since he arrived in Kuwait soon after the invasion of Kuwait.

But it seems it was not Simpson's fault that he was scooped. The BBC says it was not prepared to back ITN's promise that the 50-minute interview would be transmitted uncut and in prime time. "Having discovered what those terms were we never went back," says a BBC spokesman.

Since there is clear evidence that Saddam has cynically manipulated the media, press and broadcasting must beware becoming victims of propaganda. Our general position with anyone we interview is that we reserve the right to edit."

But ITN editor Stewart Purvis believes the Beeb may have presumed it would get the much coveted interview. "I think there was a hint of corporate arrogance," he said.

Confined study An Iraqi prison cell might not seem the best place to upgrade one's curriculum vitae, but British engineer Ian Richter is doing just that. Four years after starting a sentence for allegedly bribing the mayor of



Baghdad, he has now almost completed a one-year post-graduate course in economics, finance and accountancy run by the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

"It has never been done from jail before," says Richter's wife, Shirley, from her London home. "Textbooks have been sent via the British embassy in Baghdad and we hope that a British Council official will investigate when he takes the exams next month. We are grateful to the Iraqi authorities for letting him study. He enjoys it, and the qualification will be useful when he is released." If her tireless campaigning has its just reward, that day cannot be far away.

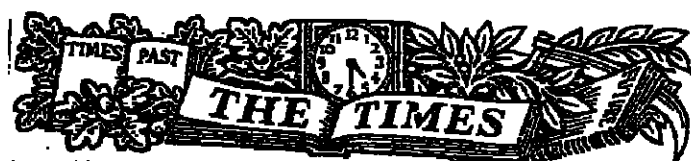
Labour MPs have been praying for an end to Thatcherism since 1979. Now Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, has gone one better. Yesterday he put a signed prayer card, reserving a seat in the Commons chamber, on Mrs Thatcher's spot on the government frontbench. The name on the card? Michael Heseltine.

Blocked line

Aides of John Hume, leader of the Social and Democratic Labour party, were understandably impressed when he interrupted a meeting in his Londonderry office the other day to take an urgent telephone call from Mrs Aquino. Hume had met the Philippine president as a member of the international team that observed the country's general election in 1986.

Hume stood up and adopted his most deferential telephone manner. Uncharacteristically, he barely got a word into the conversation, and his face soon darkened. It transpired that the Mrs Aquino on the line was not the head of state but an angry constituent complaining about blocked drains.





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BLOOD IN THE OIL

Once it was said there was blood on British coal. Tragically since the Piper Alpha disaster in July 1988 it can more truly be said there is blood in British oil. The fire which destroyed the North Sea rig and killed 167 workers was unsurpassed in its horror. As an appropriate tribute to those who lost their lives, Lord Cullen's enquiry into past causes and future remedies of the disaster was unsurpassed in its thoroughness. His report, published yesterday, demands fundamental changes in the way safety is regulated in the North Sea.

His main conclusion is that the industry should come "on-shore" by submitting to the jurisdiction of the independent Health and Safety Executive (HSE), as land-based industry already has to do. The clear implication is that the disaster would not have happened or would have been less likely had that been the case at the time. For a decade the government has ignored voices in the industry calling for this change. The unions and the TUC continually pressed for it. The previous Labour government, before it lost the 1979 election, was proposing to legislate accordingly, and has continued to argue for it in opposition. So it cannot be claimed the dogs did not bark, only that those particular dogs had barked too often without good cause for the government to pay attention. It is an unconvincing excuse.

For no good reason, safety in the North Sea was left to the oversight of the energy department, whose main responsibility was to ensure the commercial exploitation of Britain's oil reserves as efficiently and cheaply as possible. This had two dire consequences. It created an obvious conflict of interest within the department itself, so that whenever safety was at odds with production there was a temptation to give precedence to the latter. And it lent itself to a cosy relationship between the safety regulators and the oil platform owners and managers.

But safety is about discipline, and sometimes about penalties for indiscipline, including the threat to shut down production entirely. Land-based industry has long learnt to fear the powers of the HSE, and to treat its inspections and instructions with careful respect. Lord Cullen identifies several instances before the fire when inspections of

Piper Alpha conducted by the energy department were perfunctory, and it is hard to believe they were being taken seriously either by those doing the inspecting or those being inspected.

Senior managers were too easily satisfied that all was well. The inspectors lacked sufficient powers. The owners came to believe they would not use the powers they did have. The combination created a climate in which safety was not put first. The dreadful truth to come out of the Cullen enquiry is that the 167 need not have died.

To its credit, the industry has a guilty conscience. It was as shocked by the disaster as it was careless before it. The evidence given to Cullen was monitored closely and the most important recommendations were anticipated by the operators without waiting for yesterday's publication. Major engineering works to transfer the location of cut-off valves to sea level are in hand, part of a safety programme in the North Sea costing up to £750 million.

More is necessary, however. Expensive though it would be, the government should not balk at requiring accommodation rigs to be separate from production rigs in all cases. The combination of the two facilities on one rig was one of the main causes of the high loss of life on Piper Alpha.

The HSE should be given untrammelled power to close rigs down, and should use the threat accordingly. The HSE's own resources will need considerable expansion - it is underfunded already - and it should not merely take over the North Sea safety inspectorate lock, stock and barrel from the Department of Energy. A new beginning will require new people. It also requires a determination to cultivate the sort of "safety culture" that prevails in dangerous installations on land, such as oil refineries. The science of risk assessment requires every possible hazard to be anticipated, every unfortunate combination of adverse circumstances to be planned for, every "what if..." question to be asked and answered. Regulations and inspections can go only so far. North Sea oil rigs will be safe only when their owners and operators really do regard safety as their overriding concern, instead of just saying so. The tragedy is that they had to wait to be told.

### INJUSTICE IN HONG KONG

A high court judge granted a writ of habeas corpus to 111 people yesterday and ordered their release. They had, he said, been illegally imprisoned for 18 months, "without having committed any offence, without trial, without any of the normal processes of law which prevent persons from detention by the executive". The government, said the judge, should be "ashamed" of an act with no place in civilised society. The eight representatives of this group who were present at the hearing left the court as free men. They were immediately rearrested, and their colleagues were transferred from the detention centre in which they had been held, to join them in prison.

This happened not in Albania or China but on British soil. The prison in which they are held is named after Queen Victoria. Not for the first time this year, the case casts serious doubt on the operation of due process in Hong Kong. Hong Kong's secretary for security, Alistair Asprey, has demonstrated a high-handed contempt for the principle that court rulings must be respected pending appeal. In court, he told the judge that if these people were freed, they would be promptly arrested again under another law. The judge replied that this would be a challenge to the judiciary which would "weaken the law in Hong Kong".

That these detainees are Vietnamese boat people in no way diminishes their right to equal treatment under the law. They have now been detained under section 4 of the immigration ordinance covering illegal immigration, on the ground that they landed in Hong Kong without valid travel documents, pending forcible repatriation to Vietnam. Yet the 111 never sought to enter Hong Kong and consistently refused to apply for asylum there.

When they arrived in Hong Kong waters in May 1989, they sought only assistance to repair their steel-hulled boat, which it is Hong Kong's policy to grant. They intended to continue their voyage to Japan, where the then prevailing law, since amended, automatically granted arriving boat people refugee status. On the basis of an astronomical repair estimate by the marine department, which the detainees'

lawyers contend would have been enough to turn the small boat into a luxury yacht, the authorities stripped the boat and, against the boat people's will, destroyed it. They then held them under section 13d of the immigration law dealing with refugees entering Hong Kong, a status which none claimed.

The case combines, as Judge Raymond Seau said, "rubber stamp administration at its worst" with outright illegality. The only reasonable amends would be their freedom. What is at stake is not only the liberty of 111 victims of a miscarriage of justice, but respect for the spirit and the letter of the law in Hong Kong. That has already been eroded by the conviction earlier this year, under a disused 1933 law designed to curb noisy street-hawking, of five pro-democracy activists who had exercised their right to peaceful assembly. The boat people have little sympathy among Hong Kong's people. But Hong Kong has everything to lose by the politicisation of justice. The colony cannot prosper unless there is confidence in the judiciary. After 1997, when Britain hands Hong Kong to China, the colony will be governed under a "basic law", promulgated by China's rubber-stamp National People's Congress. The basic law undertakes to respect the laws in force in Hong Kong at the time of the handover.

The British government has attempted to convince Hong Kong's people that their rights will be protected even after 1997 by promising a bill of rights. The bill is due to enter the statute books next July, shortly before the first direct elections to Hong Kong's legislative council. All other legislation is then to be amended to conform with the bill. That provides only slender protection, given the Chinese leadership's contempt for the rule of law and Peking's insistence that interpretation of the basic law, Hong Kong's "constitution", will be the central government's prerogative. But the stronger the institutions in force, the harder it will be for Peking to dismantle them. Yesterday's arrests were contrary to justice, common sense and the future protection of civil liberties in Hong Kong.

### rites in the Gulf

A true Muslim fundamentalist insists on the observance of Islamic law, the *Sharia*, in every detail. The *Sharia* places Muslims under a solemn duty to protect the religious rights of "the people of the Book", in which category Christians, far from being persecuted as "infidels", are specifically included.

It cannot be in the name of Muslim fundamentalism, therefore, that Saudi Arabia has outlawed the observance of the Christian religion. Yet Western forces now stationed in Saudi Arabia have felt obliged to disguise the ministrations of Christian chaplains, who have had to operate under such euphemisms as "spiritual advisers". On Sunday these forces were not allowed the proper religious commemoration of Remembrance Day.

Iran, often regarded as the prototype of Islamic fundamentalism, not only allows Christians freedom to worship but reserves seats for them in its parliament. Iraq has a tolerated Christian minority, of which President Saddam Hussein's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, is a member. Saudi Arabia is an exception to this general pattern of Muslim tolerance, which compares favourably with the treatment of non-Christian minorities in medieval Europe.

The explanation lies in the influence of the leaders of the Wahabi sect on the rulers of that country. Their restrictions have in the past caused discomfort even to Muslims not of that persuasion when they make their pilgrimage to the Islamic holy places. It is common practice

for Saudi immigration authorities to confiscate editions of the Koran of which the Wahabis do not approve. Under Wahabi injunction, Christian churches are not allowed in Saudi Arabia at all, and Christian ministers who go there have to disguise their profession.

The British and American commanders in the Gulf have taken the view that Saudi sensitivity should be complied with, at least on the surface, while putting it about that what the eye does not see, the heart does not grieve for. But they would be acting wrongly, and illegally in terms of British and American military law, if they prevented members of the forces under their command from obeying the obligations of their religion, for instance by stopping Roman Catholics from hearing Mass on Sundays. And they are on doubtful ground if they are pretending to the Saudis that they are imposing such prohibitions if they are not.

In view of the tolerance demanded by the *Sharia*, Saudi Arabia would not incur odium in the rest of the Muslim world if it relaxed these unreasonable restrictions. Nor would Western governments jeopardise their determination to uphold the UN Charter - the very reason for the presence of their forces - if they reminded the Saudi government of its obligations under that charter. Article 19 of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights states categorically: "Everyone has the right... to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

### History and honour in Tory leadership struggle

From Mr Christopher Lewis

Sir, Should the Conservatives change their leader before the next election? In politics one should always look at history; it often provides the answer.

If the election is held in 1992, which seems to be more likely, it will match the 1964 election - 13 years of Conservative government. A year before that election the prime minister was changed: the Conservatives lost. Many say that Sir Alec Douglas-Home did a superb job to lose by the narrowest of majorities. This may be so, but lose he did.

Margaret Thatcher has won three elections, in most of which, two years before the election date, the Conservatives were way behind in the polls and people were calling for her head. Are the Conservatives really prepared to take the risk? History has shown that a change of leader at this time is a disaster.

As party chairman of a very marginal constituency (Richmond and Barnes), which we won in 1983 by a mere 74 votes, I know how much we owe the prime minister. It is now up to others to show their loyalty and back Margaret Thatcher so that we can all get on with winning the next general election.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER LEWIS,  
1 Cole Park View,  
Sidney Road,  
Twickenham, Middlesex.  
November 12.

From Mr A. M. Airey

Sir, In October 1963 the Conservative government was trailing Labour in the opinion polls and facing certain and heavy electoral defeat. That month Harold Macmillan, as he then was, was replaced as prime minister by Lord Home. In the general election a year later the Conservatives under Sir Alec Douglas-Home very nearly secured a fourth term. Labour winning the election by the smallest of majorities.

The Conservatives should change their leader now and give a new prime minister sufficient time to achieve what Sir Alec Douglas-Home so nearly did in 1964.

Yours faithfully,  
A. M. AIREY,  
41 Marlborough Gardens,  
Lovelace Road,  
Surrey.  
November 12.

From Mr A. O. H. Quick

Sir, The background of Mrs Thatcher's Conservative critics is instructive. Is it a coincidence that two of the most persistent, Michael Heseltine and Julian Critchley, went to the same public school,

Shrewsbury, and to Oxford University? I think not. Sir Ian Gilmour, Sir Anthony Meyer and Mr Antony Marlow all share such a public school/Oxford background.

The other group that is strongly featured among her critics is the financial, media, and management consultancy world of London.

Mrs Thatcher's real offence is that she has broken the taboo that both groups feel instinctively should be placed on the major political issues of Europe. They appear to feel that it is an issue better reserved for the Establishment and the technocrat and that the high profile that Mrs Thatcher has accorded to it is wrong.

Though I went to the same school and university as Michael Heseltine, I find her style most refreshing. It is perhaps fairly easy to discount the social differences between her and her critics; more insidious is the belief that major differences should be left to the technocrats.

It was Marshall McLuhan who defined an expert as "one who never makes small mistakes while moving towards the grand fallacy". To rely on experts, valuable though they are in their own subjects, on major political questions is a negation of democracy. Mrs Thatcher has made a signal contribution to the continued health of our democracy by her forthrightness on Europe.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY QUICK,  
Corbin,  
Scornhill,  
Buckfastleigh, Devon.  
November 8.

From Mr A. H. Gilding

Sir, Mrs Thatcher may perhaps be correct in her policies towards Europe, but that is not enough. Support from her party, and from the electorate, will depend less upon whether she is right than upon whether she is seen actively to be pursuing her policy in such a way that those supporters can accept her course of action as the best possible for the country.

To continue upon her present path, in the manner in which she is doing, is to court disaster. To reduce that possibility, Mrs Thatcher needs to take greater account of the sensibilities of the public and demonstrate that she has the flexibility to adapt to the changes she herself has been instrumental in creating in the fortunes and circumstances of this country. If she cannot or will not do that, the Tories will need to find a new leader who can reduce confusion and re-establish a sense

of direction and purpose within the party.

Far from being a sign of weakness, a demonstration of her willingness to change would be a sign that she is still a force to be reckoned with, and worthy of continued support and loyalty.

Yours faithfully,  
A. H. GILDING,  
PO Box N-1129,  
Nassau, Bahamas.  
November 9.

From Mr R. H. Burnett

Sir, As a Conservative voter I feel the electorate will not vote for yet another term of government by a Conservative party led by Mrs Thatcher. With the exception of the poll tax, which is no electoral asset, over the last two years debate has shifted away from policies to personalities, with Mrs Thatcher appearing progressively more isolated within the government itself and out of touch with the sentiments of the electorate as a whole.

Nobody can deny her earlier achievements, but there are divisions within the government which the prime minister has been unable to resolve, and which only appear to deepen.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BURNETT,  
69 Hammers Lane,  
Mill Hill, NW7.  
November 8.

From Mr John Derrick

Sir, Tom King claims that a Tory leadership contest would be "quite wrong", as it would undermine the morale of British forces in the Gulf (report, November 12).

That assertion is in the same spirit as the claim made by the Conservative candidate in the Eastbourne by-election that a vote against the Government would be a vote for the IRA.

British forces were sent to the Gulf in the defence of freedom and not to have their presence used to stifle political choice at home.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN DERRICK,  
4 Anhalt Road, SW11.  
November 12.

From Miss C. J. Mainprize

Sir, Tory MPs considering getting rid of Mrs Thatcher should realise that their actions send a clear message to the voters: "We don't believe in what we have done for the last ten years, so why should you?"

Yours faithfully,  
CLARE MAINPRIZE,  
7 Prince Edward Mansions,  
Hereford Road, W2.  
November 10.

farm track. Since roe deer live in and around woodland this will present a significant problem and danger to the public.

In parts of the Breckland there are rare Schedule 1 birds which require lack of disturbance and peace during their nesting periods. Additionally nests are in potential danger of being robbed if they can be spotted easily by people roaming on hitherto private tracks beside the cultivated areas on which these birds nest.

I have outlined three major areas of concern to farmers and conservationists which the Labour party has overlooked in its statements on public access. I challenge either Mr Bryan Gould or Mr David Clark to come forward and support their proposals in the light of these comments.

Yours faithfully,  
H. B. E. VAN CUTSEM,  
Northmore, Exning,  
Newmarket, Suffolk.  
November 5.

### Lesson in design

From the Master of the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry

Sir, A newly opened exhibition at the Design Museum, SE1, "Design in the Public Service", shows how in Holland a large public corporation, the Post and Telecommunications Authority, has used good contemporary design over many decades with vitality, confidence and a sustained commitment to the highest standards. This is not confined to the superficialities of public image but embraces the working realities underlying it: buildings, vehicles, stamps, posters and every detail.

This country deserves much

energy to training designers and promoting the cause of good design: yet many excellent British designers find it easier to do good work abroad than at home. The remarkable Dutch achievement evident in this invigorating exhibition deserves to be widely seen by those who commission design here in private and public sectors alike, as evidence of the distinction with which one of our European partners has harnessed its native skills.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID GENTLEMAN, Master,  
The Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry,  
8 John Adam Street, WC2.  
November 2.

### Crowd control

From Mr James Slater

Sir, Mr Edward Heath (Diary, November 1) hopes that the lions of Longleat will have been well fed by the time a projected 100,000 fans attend his popular concert, planned for the Salisbury Cathedral square appeal, and to be held in the grounds of Longleat House.

I disagree: the deterrent value of

a pride of ravenously hungry lions ought to be enough to ensure exemplary behaviour by the gathered masses. But if not, feeding a few Christians, even nominally so, to the lions would be particularly pertinent given the nature of the appeal.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES SLATER,  
38 Heol-y-Delyn,  
Lisvane, Cardiff.

### Liberian war

From Mrs J. M. Keppel-Palmer

Sir, A civil war that has sickened even the most hardened observers is currently being fought in Liberia. The only hope of survival for most of the population now lies in fleeing the country, as there is no food and the rebels wipe out life sadistically and at whim.

Many of the refugees have now arrived in Sierra Leone which, whilst being an extremely poor country itself, has wholeheartedly welcomed its neighbours. It has given them a home, nursed and fed them and even expanded the schools to enable the children to

continue their education. Together with the Liberian refugees it is running a splendid service in reunifying families.

However, Sierra Leone is now in danger of being overwhelmed by sheer numbers. It, in turn, needs far more help if it is to continue this necessary humanitarian work.

This harrowing situation is surely one that the world should know about. Unfortunately, bud-

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.

### Spy-writers' views in conflict

From Mr Oleg Gordievsky

Sir, When Christopher Andrew and I wrote *KGB: The Inside Story*, we anticipated a hostile reaction from spy-writers who have published different accounts of Soviet penetration of Britain. Chapman Pincher and Nigel West (November 6), for instance, cast doubt on my access to KGB secrets.

They seem unaware that this access has recently been confirmed in the Soviet media on several occasions by, amongst others, General Oleg Kalugin, former head of counter-intelligence in the KGB First Chief (Foreign Intelligence) Directorate. According to Kalugin, I "probably took away everything that could be taken from the First Directorate". (Actually, plenty remains for others to bring out, particularly outside Third Department files.)

I had two reasons for studying the history of Soviet penetration of Britain with particular attention. During the second half of my 23 years' career with the KGB I worked as a senior officer in the department responsible for work primarily against Britain; and in 1979-80, I was chosen for the task of writing the 60th anniversary official in-house history of KGB operations in countries covered by the First Chief Directorate Third Department (including Britain).

Contrary to Mr Rusbridger's letter (also November 6), I had access to a wide range of documents about John Cairncross, including a summary of his career as a Soviet agent. I also consulted KGB British experts about him. Mr Pincher's claim that in 1980 I was too junior an officer in the Third Department to write this history is as mistaken as the rest of his charges against me. Our most important new information on Anthony Blunt and Leo Long derives, as the book makes clear, from their KGB operational files which I have read.

Secondly, while I was co-operating with British Intelligence, my safety depended on my being accurately informed about Soviet penetration.

Nigel West claims that *KGB: The Inside Story* "contains almost no new information". Readers have only to glance at, for example, the summaries of, and quotations from, highly classified KGB documents as recent as 1985 and the identifications of KGB officers around the world to disprove this claim. Mr West also claims that our book contains much material that is "demonstrably false", he then cites a sentence about "Grigori Kuzmich" (not Kumich) which, as a footnote makes clear, comes from a published work rather than KGB archives. He also wrongly attributes to me a statement written by a *Time* magazine journalist.

Readers will have a further opportunity to judge the content of my access to KGB files when we publish a selection of documents in a companion volume to our current book.

Yours sincerely,  
O. GORDIEVSKY,  
c/o A. M. Heath and Co. Ltd.,  
79 St Martin's Lane, WC2.  
November 9.

### Saving on libraries

From Sir Christopher Lever

Sir, I have recently received a communication from the Natural History Museum in London, informing me that as from January 2, 1991, visitors wishing to use the museum's libraries, archives and map collection will be requested to make an appointment at least 24 hours in advance. This new requirement has become necessary following instructions issued to the museum's department of library services to reduce its staff by 25 per cent.

The various libraries of the Natural History Museum are arguably the finest on their subjects in the world and are of great and invariably efficient and helpful to researchers. This reduction in the services they are able to provide is caused solely by the miserly decline in public funding resulting from government policy.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER LEVER,  
Newell House, Winkfield,  
Windsor, Berkshire.  
November 7.

### Redefined food

From Mrs Ann Minden Wilson

Sir, The EC has redefined the carrot as a fruit to enable the Portuguese to continue making carrot jam. Will it now consider redefining the damson as a cheese to enable me to continue making damson cheese?

Yours faithfully,  
ANN MINDEN WILSON,  
Rock Farmhouse,  
Drayford,  
Credition, Devon.  
November 8.

From Mr A. R. Rees-Webbe

Sir, Are we about to hear that the vegetable marrow and the root of ginger are to be declared fruit?

Unusually swift decisions are needed from Brussels if chaos is to be avoided at village shops throughout the land and judges reduced to tears. Pending any legislation can your readers please give me guidance on when is a vegetable not a vegetable?

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. REES-WEBBE,  
Norton House,  
Weston Luffingfields,  
Nr Baschurch, Shropshire.  
November 8.





# YANNIS RITSOS

There was already a modern movement, in the hands of George Sefiris, Odysseus Elytis and others, writing for the Athens periodical *Nea grammata*; this was orientated towards the bourgeois values of western Europe. But Ritsos and a poet who was for long associated with him, Nikiforos Vrettakas, were orientated towards Soviet socialism. Both of Ritsos's first volumes are strongly influenced by the poetry of the first fashionable Greek poet, Kostas Varnalis, who had killed himself in 1928. The other main influence was stronger and more permanent: that of Kostas Varnalis, a Marxist poet and critic, 25 years older than Ritsos.

Ritsos found his own voice in 1946, with "O Epitafios", a lament by a mother for the murder of her son by police while taking part in a strike of tobacco workers. This is written, with an immense skill, in the Mirololi, a folk-form consisting of long (15-syllable) rhymed couplets. The poem established Ritsos and became more famous when the composer Mikis Theodorakis set it to music 20 years later. It is often remarked that Ritsos's political poems are far less good than his personal ones. The power of "O Epitafios" resides not only in the personal grief of the lamenting mother, but also in the injustice aroused. Ritsos was not dogmatic when he was being merely doctrinal.

Having demonstrated his absolute mastery of form, Ritsos abandoned it. "To trigoudi tis adelfis mou" (1936, Song of my sister) about his sister's decline into madness is in the free verse he used almost exclusively for

the rest of his life. In 1936 the fascist dictatorship of Metaxas was established, and Ritsos was unable to publish freely for almost twenty years. "O Epitafios" was solemnly burned by policemen in front of the Temple of Zeus and its author became a public enemy. But in those years, and then in the years of German occupation and civil war, Ritsos was writing continually. He drew freely on natural imagery, and also began to write *laconia*, cryptic, often hermetic, short poems. The earliest such poems at his best in the 1960s volume *Myrtines* (Testimonies). When the communist resistance was destroyed in 1945 Ritsos had to go into hiding, and a novel he had written (the only one) was lost together with other precious manuscripts. At this period he

Ritsos was captured in 1948 and spent four years in various concentration camps on Greek islands. Such highly political poems as "Nikos Belyamzine" (1952) belong to this period, often written on bottle-labels and scraps of paper, which were smuggled out of prison. When released in 1952 he became recognised even by political opponents as more than a mere communist rebel. In 1962 he collected all his poems into one large volume, *Poimata*, to which he added another in 1964. He began to write immensely long poems on classical subjects (for example, "Orestes", 1965) and dramatic monologues, but he nevertheless still politically active. When the deputy Prime Minister, Georgios Lambrakis, a friend of his, was murdered, he and Theodorakis took part in a night long vigil, and "O Epitafios" was sung. At the very outset of the colonels' coup, he was again imprisoned. Though soon released because of his bad lungs, he could publish nothing until 1972.

From this time Ritsos began to produce the short poems that have brought him the most praise from literary critics. A selection from these was published in an English translation, *Gestures* (1971) with the author's own illustrations. Ritsos made translations from Blok, Mayakovsky, and many others, and wrote two plays. He saw his own work translated into over 30 languages. All the well-known poems have been translated into English, but — it must be said — usually into indifferently versions. The best selection, a good translation, is *The Fourth Dimension* (1977) by Rae Dalrymple.

In 1954 Ritsos married Yaronfalia Yeoyiadou, a physician. They had one daughter whose birth Ritsos greeted with the poem "Proin Astro" (Morning Star), which he described as "a small encyclopaedia of dimensions".

George Raymonds, pantomime dame, died last month at his home in Birmingham. He was 76.

OFTEN compared to such fellow pantomime dames as Douglas Byng, George Lacey and Clarkson Rose, George Raymond was something of a maverick in the world of theatre. An intensely private man, he shunned backstage gossip and showbusiness parties, preferring to concentrate his quiet but determined energy on his own outrageous portrayals of Mother Goose (which he once described as "The Hamlet of Pantomimes"), Widow Twankey and various alcoholic nurses in the many productions of *Good*.

**Subsequent** work in his last two decades before he started his career in concert parties. His first notable appearance was as a singer and comedian in *Edgar Taylor's Lavender Follies* in Birmingham in which he first introduced some of his female characterisations. Improvise Derek Salberg saw him and subsequently launched his career as a dancer and he went on to perform in several famous venues at leading theatres in Bradford, Nottingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh.

During the 1960s and 1970s he was managed by Derek Salberg's nephew Keith, who promoted him as a headline in variety and Old Time Music Hall throughout the country. He was also a leading performer at The City Varieties, Manchester, and with Tony Hancock's Productions in the 1980s.

In the heyday of radio variety he made regular appearances on such shows as



**Midday Music Hall: Variety Bando and Educating Chic.** On television he plays guest character roles in *Crucials* and, with Marga Lockwood, in *The Flamingo*.

He was known in theatrical circles as being somewhat cantankerous and fugal. His agent recalls that he was not averse to slipping a few teabags and biscuits from theatre rehearsal rooms to take home in a worn shopping bag. He remained, however, a unique variety artiste from bygone era with his own special brand of humour.

He was unmarried.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
November 12: The Duke of Edinburgh, International President WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature, and Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, left Heathrow Airport, London this morning for Hong Kong, Japan and Australia.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
November 12: The Prince Edward this evening re-opened the Compass Arts Theatre Complex at Ickenham, Middlesex and attended two performances by the young people involved.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
November 12: The Duke of Gloucester today visited Berkshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant (Mr John Gifford).

In the morning His Royal Highness visited Trencherwood

ple Trencherwood House, 21-23 The Broadway, Newbury, and subsequently opened Manor Park, a Trencherwood Homes development, Turnpike, Newbury.

In the afternoon, The Duke of Gloucester opened the Sanderson School at Elaine School, Woolhampton, Berkshire.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, St Peter's Research Trust, was present this evening at Reception at University College, Gower Street, London, WC1.

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE**  
**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
November 12: The Duke and Duchess of Kent this morning opened the newly refurbished St Aldate's Police Station in Oxford.

Lord Peter Troughton and Commander Roger Walker RN were in attendance.

The Queen will attend a service in Westminster Abbey at 9.55 to mark the inauguration of the new statue of Queen Elizabeth II in the Church of England and will attend the opening ceremony in Church House.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will unveil a statue of Sir Winston and Lady Churchill at Chartwell at noon.

Prince Edward, as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will attend a "Magnificent Seven" dinner at the Carlton Tower Hotel at 7.30.

As Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists, will attend a seminar on disability and information technology, at 1810, Upper Ground, SE1, at 12.25; as President of REDR-Engineers for Disaster Relief, will attend a seminar on the reconstruction of Civil Engineers at 4.00; and will attend the RAF Benevolent Fund Battle of Britain 50th anniversary appeal evening at St James's Palace at 7.20.

Princess Margaret, as President of the NSPCC, will visit the Children's Charity Protection Team's unit in Leeds at 2.15.

As Duke of Gloucester, as President of the British Consul-General's Association, will attend the offices of Holcower Consulting Engineers in Colchester at 4.15.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the British Computer Society, will attend the opening ceremony at the Waldorf Hotel at 1.45.

Halilbah, barrister and magistrate, will attend the book launch, author: 78; Mr Kenneth Kemp, former chairman, Smith and Nephew, 69; Sir Anthony James, BSM, 79; Mrs Joan Lester, MP, 80; Mrs Noel Lindley, former chairman, GEC, 88; Major-General J. Lunt, 73; Admiral Sir William G. O'Brien, 74; Mr John Sparrow, former director, All Souls College, Oxford, 84.

## Anniversaries

**BIRTHS:** Saint Augustine of Hippo, Tagarte (Souk-Ahras, Algeria), 430; John Sparr, reigned 1327-77, Windsor, 1212; Sir John Moore, general, Glasgow, 1761; James Clerk Maxwell, physicist, Edinburgh, 1831; Roger Lord Stevenson, novelist, Edinburgh, 1850.

**DEATHS:** Thomas May, poet, London, 1650; William Eity, painter, York, 1649; Sir John Lubbock, 1st Baron, Whitechapel, Berkshire, 1861; Gioacchino Rossini, composer, Passy, France, 1868; Camille Pissarro, painter, Paris, 1903.

## Guinness and Oyster Luncheon

The 26th Guinness and Oyster luncheon, in aid of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for the Disabled, will be held at the Mansion House on Thursday, November 24, at 1.30 p.m., in the presence of The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor. A

Sir Ewart Bell, civil servant, 66;  
the Right Rev George Carey,  
Archbishop-designate of Can-  
terbury, 67; Anne Pengilly 0372 842204 or  
fax your credit card number to  
0372 844072.

**Cardiff Business Club**  
President of Cardiff Business Club, Sir Cennydd Dafreine, K.G., the High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr Brian K. Thomas, and the Honorary Recorder of Cardiff, His Honour Mr Justice Gribbon, were present at a dinner held by the club at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff, last night. The guest speaker was His Excellency P.R. Davies, Governor of Wales, Ambassador, and Mr Alan Gibson, Davies of Ewan Davies and Co., Solicitors presided.

**Standing Order of the Baronetage**  
Sir Nicholas Bonsor, M.P., Chairman of the Standing Order of the Baronetage, presided at the annual executive committee dinner held last night at the Beefeater Club, Lord Denham, Government Chief Whip, was one of the officials. Mr Goodlad, M.P., Deputy Chief Whip, House of Commons, the Earl of Scarborough, Mr Ian Macfarlane and Mr Reg Snow, Secretary to the Council and the Baroneets were the guests.

**Anglo-Belgian Society**  
The Anglo-Belgian Society held at the annual dinner of the Anglo-Belgian Society held last night at the Anglo-Belgian Club to mark Belgian Dynasty day. Mr J.P. Van Bellingen, the guest of Honour, and Mr Principaux, Sir Edward Jackson, chairman, and Mr Jeremy Greenstock,

**Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, also spoke.**

**Chatham Dining Club**  
Sir Michael Wilford was the principal guest at a Chatham Dining Club dinner held last night at the Crystal Palace. Mr Anthony Wierler presided.

**Wolfe Society**  
Major-General N.G. Kirby was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Wolfe Society, which was held in Westernham, Kent, to mark the anniversary of the birth of Major-General James Wolfe, Mr J. St A. Warde, president, was in the chair.

**Service Dinner**  
16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers  
Major-General A.W. Dennis, Colonel of the 16th/5th The Queen's Royal Lancers, presided at the annual officers' dinner held last night at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

**RAF Club Dining Society**  
Major-General Christopher Tyler, Resident Governor and Keeper of the Jewel House at Her Majesty's Palace, was the guest of honour and principal speaker at a dinner of the RAF Club Dining Society held last night at the club. Flight Lieutenant Sir John H. Hodges and Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges, president of the club, also spoke.

**Mr S.A. Burekhardt and Miss J. May.**  
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr J.A. Burekhardt, MBE, and Mrs J. Burekhardt, of Macleanfield, of Toronto, Canada, and Katharine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C. May, of Hartley, Plymouth.

**Mr L.D. Darling and Miss A.J. Brodie.**  
The engagement is announced between John, youngest son of Mr and Mrs David Darling, of Toorak, Australia, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Brodie, of Toorak, Australia.

**The Hon J.E.M. Eden and Miss J.J. Spears.**  
The engagement is announced between John, youngest son of Kensington, London, W.8. and of Mrs W. Blanshard, of Semley, Dorset, and Joanna, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. J. Spears, of Hong Kong, and Mrs J.B. Spears, of Gurnsey, Jersey.

**Mr C.A.J. Glennie and Miss C.M. Steiner.**  
The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Captain Patrick Glennie, R.N., of Mrs Jennie, of The Old Mill House, Clanfield, Hampshire, and Christina, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Cyril Steiner, of Stevensville, Michigan, USA.

**Commander A.J. Lyall, RN and Mrs K.R. Hunt.**  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mrs Joan Lyall and the late Major R. Lyall, of West Ashton, Wiltshire, and Kathryn, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. R. Hunt, of Los Angeles, California, and the late Mr T. Hunter.

**Mr P.T.A. Macmillan and Miss S.F. van der Grinten.**  
The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs Ian Macmillan, of Toronto, Canada, and Sabine, youngest daughter of Professor and Mrs Paul van der Grinten, of Geleen, The Netherlands.

**Dr J. Powell and Dr M. Crarer.**  
The engagement is announced between James, son of Dr and Mrs R.J. Powell, of Worthing, West Sussex, and Moyana, daughter of Dr Oswald Lynch, of Dr. Crarer, of Kensworth Lynch, Bedfordshire.

**Mr N.D. Scott and Miss C.C. Playdell-Bourvis.**  
The engagement is announced between Nels David, son of Mr and Mrs W. Scott, of Geneva, Switzerland, and Fredensborg, Denmark, and Grania Claire, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Playdell-Bourvis, of Deddington, Oxfordshire.

**Mr M.J. Watson and Miss L.K. O'Donahue.**  
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs James Watson, of Crowborough, Sussex, and Lucy, daughter of Mr James O'Donahue, of Oxtow, Wirral, and Mrs Ann Hayward, of Melbourne, Australia.

**Meeting**  
**Royal Over-Seas League**  
Professor Sir Kenneth Stuart was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's, Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mrs Joan Lyall and the late Major R. Lyall, of West Ashton, Wiltshire, and Kathryn, daughter of Mrs E. Alexander, of Monrovia, California, and the late Mr R.T. Hunter.

between Jonathan, son of Mrs. Joan Lyall and the late Major R. Lyall, of West Ashton, Wiltshire, and Kathryn, daughter of Mrs B. Alexander, of Monrovia, California, and the late Mr R.T. Hunter.

AS IS clear from your superb obituary notice (November 10), the premature death of Professor Kenan Erim not only means a tragic loss to classical archaeology; it also raises anxious doubts as to the future of one of the richest and most magical sites in the Mediterranean world. For Kenan's scholarship was only a beginning. He lived and breathed Aphrodisias, and protected it as a lioness protects her cub. For four months each summer — in a thread-

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir Alexander Graham, accompanied by Lady Graham, the Sheriffs and their ladies, entertained the outgoing Lord Mayor, Sir Hugh Bidwell, and Lady Bidwell, at a banquet in Guildhall last night.

The Lord Mayor, Sir Hugh Bidwell, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor and the Prime Minister were the speakers. Others present included:

Lady Mackay of Clashfern, Mrs

[illegible]

**City of London Polytechnic**  
Professorship: Jerry Palmer, Department of General Studies.

**Coventry Polytechnic**

**Appointments**  
Mike Smith, Professor of International Studies; Dr. Foster, Reader in International Geography; Dr. Bramby Thomas, Reader in Magneto-Optical Materials; Timothy Mason, Professor of Chemistry; Philip Lortimer, Reader in Physical Chemistry.

trousers so patched as to reveal scarcely a trace of the original material — he would work in the field from dawn to sunset, turning up treasure after priceless treasure; for the remaining eight, every waking moment not taken up with teaching at New York University seemed to be spent collecting funds for the following season. The decision some years ago by the National Geographic Society to withdraw its support came as a shattering blow; fortunately other organisations such as the

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SCHOLARS wanting to study the Dead Sea scrolls claim they are being denied access to the texts, considered vital to understanding the birth of Christianity.

The protests have forced the Harvard professor in charge of publication into setting deadlines for his team, after 40 years in which the scrolls have been kept from many specialists, some of whom find them useful.

The argument, which has simmered in the academic community for years, became more public earlier this year, when Oxford University was given a complete set of photographs of the texts, but only on condition that access was restricted to those approved by John Strugnell of Harvard.

Professor Geza Vermes, who is in charge of the Oxford archive, says in *Scientific American* that he and scores of his colleagues have tried to gain access for years, without any response. Professor Strugnell says in the same journal that any competent scholar can see the scrolls, and that of about ten requests a year, five were serious. He complains that Strugnell is as "competent in other things, but he doesn't have the necessary technical skills".

Further allegations of suppression of the scrolls have come from the Jesuit scholar Joseph A. Fitzmyer, who compiled a concordance of all the texts 30 years ago, and Herschel Shanks, editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, who claims that a concordance has been kept secret for years in case anybody used it to create an unpublished scroll. Professor Norbert Golb, of the University of Chicago, claims that Professor Strugnell and his colleagues are reluctant to release documents until they can reconstruct them to the theory that they were produced by the Essenes. Golb believes the scrolls belong to a much earlier period than he thinks, and that they are the remains of a library of texts hidden by the Romans destroyed in Jerusalem in AD 70, and says at least one unpublished document supports his view.

Professor Strugnell and his Qimron of Ben-Gurion University in Beer-Sheva, Israel, published a 112-line manuscript with commentary next year, Professor Strugnell says all documents may be published in ten years.

Source: *Scientific American* 263 No. 5: 36-38.

[illegible]

Auckland in the Moor and Wellington.  
 Joseph Exeter.  
 The Rev John C Wall, formerly Priest  
 of the Anglican Conventual District of  
 Bishop Auckland, Woodhouse Close,  
 Joseph Durham, to be Priest-in-  
 charge, Great Glenham and Little  
 Glenham, Barrow, Stratford St Andrew  
 and St Andrew, Joseph St  
 Edmund and Ipswich.  
 The Rev Peter R Harding, Vicar, St  
 Cyprian, Clarence, Sale, Joseph  
 to continue at St Area Dean of  
 Westminster St Marysboro until 31  
 May 1992.  
 The Rev G Roger Harper, Curate,  
 St Pauls Wexley, Diocese of  
 Exeter, to continue at St Pauls  
 parish of St Paul, Penzance, Diocese  
 of Exeter.

A memorial to Richard Dimbleby was yesterday unveiled by his wife Mrs Ronald Dimbleby in Westminster Abbey and received into the custody of the Abbey by the Dean and Chapter. Mr Paul Fox, CBE, gave an address and Mr Tom Fleming read from Mr Dimbleby's broadcast of the lying-in-state of King George VI. The Chairman and the Director General of the BBC were among the congregation of broadcasters, friends and the family of Richard Dimbleby. The bronze relief was sculpted by his son Nicholas Dimbleby.

**St Peter's Research Trust**  
The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of the St Peter's Research Trust, attended a reception yesterday at University College London to mark the establishment of the St Peter's chair of nephrology. Dr D.H. Roberts, provost of the college, Professor G.H. Neild and Mr W.P. Bowman, chairman of the trust, were the speakers.

[illegible]

College: Rebecca E. U.P.H. formerly of  
Wymouth College. Norwalk.  
FARV L. WILKIN, formerly of St  
Swinnard's School, Winchester. S.R.  
W. H. C. formerly of Abington  
School.

To college bursars  
J.O. ADOCK, formerly of Sir  
William Borlase's School, Marlow.  
R.K.A. BRADSHURN, formerly of  
Abingdon School, Jane E.B. SHAWAY,  
formerly of Gosswick School, J.T.  
C. formerly of Ayrton School.  
J.R. DUFF, formerly of Royal Gram-  
mar School, Newcastle. A.Y. KEN-  
NIE, formerly of Tully School.  
K. H. H. formerly of D. H. H.  
MATHIESON, formerly of Sir William  
Borlase's School, Marlow.

**Nomination of High Sheriffs** Cook - Anthony Nicholas George  
1999 Duckworth-Grady Robert Edmond

[illegible]

Mr R D Gordon, British High Commissioner at Georgetown, pointed chaplains to Her Majesty's Household.

to be additionally HM Ambassador (non-resident) to the Republic of Suriname.

Mr. J. T. Davies, British High Commissioner-designate to Barbados, to be concurrently, British High Commissioner (non-resident) to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Christopher and Nevis.

The following have been appointed:

The Rev. Canon Glyndwr Jones, the Rev. Derek George Palmer and the Rev. Canon David Hughes-Wheeler.

Justice Allan Ball, Caribbean Crown Court Liaison Judge, has been installed as Honorary Recorder of Carlisle.

Mr. Alan Charles Baldwin to be a Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate with effect from December 3.







# Stoned all over again

An exhibition of Sixties jewellery pays true tribute to the decade, says Vivienne Becker

For those of us who were a little more than knee-high to a Courreges boot at the time, the jewellery of the Sixties is likely to be as evocative of those rock 'n' roll years as hot pants and eyelash glue. Just think of that giant, fluorescent pink PVC Old England watch, and it all comes flooding back.

On the other hand, for anyone young enough never to have known a painted freckle, authentic Sixties baubles will be the ultimate accessory to this year's all-consuming fashion theme.

But the jewellery of the Sixties was much more than a fun fashion accessory: while plastic hoops and jangling discs were swinging around the world, real jewellery was enjoying its own revolution, another perfect expression of the rebellious atmosphere of the decade. Now "Stoned", a timely exhibition at the Knightsbridge jewellery shop Cobra & Bellamy, puts together both real and costume jewels from the Sixties to show the vital role they played in the fashion explosion, and also to highlight the under-appreciated area of Sixties jewellery design.

Tania Hunter and Veronica Manassis of Cobra & Bellamy have been ahead of their time with exhibitions in the past (a Fifties show and a collection of 20th century costume jewellery came just too soon for popular tastes), but this time they have hit the Sixties revival head-on. The Stoned collection focuses on costume jewels and medium-priced, wearable art jewels, all carefully chosen to reflect their particular contribution to the revitalisation of jewellery: an exciting blend of fashion, popular culture and art.

The Sixties saw the last truly cohesive trend in jewellery design. Unlike other 20th century design movements which had a historical background, this one sprang, fully-fledged, out of the air. At the end of the Fifties many artists, including Bracque and Dali, had begun to turn their attention to jewellery design. But like the fashion and the music of the Sixties, the new jewellery design was born in

England. It was a self-consciously aggressive style that allowed the jeweller to be designer, artist and craftsman rolled into one.

The new movement in jewellery was chaotic and explosive, using themes, textures and shapes that were organic yet unnatural, scientific yet mysterious. Metalwork recalled the surface of the moon, or exploding molecular structures, or piles of twigs, or the rotting bark of trees. Craggy crystals, foaming quartz or semi-precious stones seemed to ooze out of the metal. The free form of the new jewellery design reflected the barrier-busting aspects of the decade, while at the same time appealing to the new, wealthy customers looking for symbols of style and affluence. Suddenly names were all-important: Andrew Grima, John Donald, David Thomas — the cult of the designer jeweller was born.

The work of another of these names, Gerda Flöckinger, forms the exhibition's centrepiece. Ms Flöckinger was one of the first of the new breed of British craft jewellers. She had studied fine art before taking a jewellery course in the Fifties at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London, where she was spotted by Mary Quant and Alexander Plunket Greene, who commissioned jewellery from her for their Bazaar boutique, and later for Miss Quant's engagement and wedding rings.

The Cobra & Bellamy selection shows just how powerful the new look was. There are fashionably enormous rings in amorphous forms, and necklaces hung with pendants in swirling, moth-eaten metal. Many of the necklaces in the exhibition are hung on stiff wire rings made to clip under the roll necks of sweaters.

Other names to reckon with in the exhibition include the German designer and sculptor E.R. Nele, and Andrew Grima, whose distinctive work is represented by a gold and diamond trimmed ring, shaped like a wavering pencil shaving. Scandinavia was in the forefront of modern design in the Fifties and Sixties, and some of



Old gold: necklace by E.R. Nele, 1967; earrings by Crystal Dix, 1965; rings by Gerda Flöckinger, 1961-66

the best jewellery came from Georg Jensen, who commissioned such artists as Tivoli Billoe Hube. Jacob Hull created one of the most forceful pieces in the exhibition, a stark collar in hammered silver set with a massive mound of frosty crystals.

On the other side of the industry, costume jewellery picked up on the new free-form look, and Cobra & Bellamy shows a classic Paco Rabanne-style copper disc breastplate, Cardin in

chrome and Perspex, and Lanvin's architectural plastic pendants. Perhaps the best costume jewellery range to come out of this period was the spectacular group of designs by Diane Love for Trifari. She combined ancient and oriental decorative motifs with superb, patinated, mixed metals to create timeless accessories that are quite different from the usual run of costume jewels.

This exhibition points the way to a new collecting area, and when

all the fashion hype has died down, we will surely come to review the Sixties as one of the most important decades this century for jewellery design.

Stoned is at Cobra & Bellamy, 149 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-730 2823) from Monday 15 to December 24, Monday to Saturday 10.30am-6pm. Vivienne Becker is a jewellery historian whose books include *A history of costume jewellery*, *Fabulous Fakes* (Grafton, £19.95), and *The story of Butler & Wilson*, *Rough Diamonds* (Pavilion, £25).

## Change of coat at the Foreign Office

Out go purple and green Union Jacks and a multitude of royal coats of arms as our embassies adopt a new 'corporate image'

Embassies from Stockholm to Singapore have been receiving a large design manual during the past weeks giving guidelines on how Britain should be presented visually to the rest of the world.

The manual has survived the scrutiny of three foreign secretaries — Sir Geoffrey Howe, John Major and Douglas Hurd — and marks the culmination of a two-year design programme intended to give official literature a more dignified and unified appeal.

Given that Britain possesses two uniquely powerful symbols of identity, the Union Jack and the royal coat of arms, it might seem surprising that design consultants should be asked to re-examine the national image. But the Foreign Office, which spends £3 million a year on publications used in embassies and consulates, has long felt there is a problem.

"Too wordy, shoddy and shabby" is the verdict of Richard Moon, a design consultant at Moon Communications, who was commissioned by the Foreign Office in 1988 to lead the programme. "The publications looked a mess and the image projected was negative. No two publications looked as though they came from the same stable. They didn't even look British, and were not recognised as such."

The problem accrued over the years because there was no central design approach, says Richard Moon, the head of the information department at the Foreign Office. "One of the principal reasons was that, until 1984, control of overseas publications was with the central office of information. Then it switched to the Foreign Office."

Mr Muir estimates that at least 100 of the United Kingdom's overseas posts produce their own literature, using local suppliers. "There was no overall style, and the posts have been doing their own thing to varying standards."

Much of the problem has stemmed from the wide variety of ways in which the Union Jack and the royal coat of arms have been used. During a four-month research period, which involved interviewing 100 people, and going to Whitehall and the embassies in Washington, Bonn and The Hague, Mr Moon collected eight variations of the royal coat of arms.

"I also found Union Jacks printed inside circles and triangles, even using greens and purples instead of red, white and blue," he says. "People seemed to be ashamed of using the flag in its pure form because of its associations with the National Front and the far right. But overseas, it is viewed very differently."

The choice of Mr Moon, aged 40, is interesting. He has a background in educational publishing and "corporate identity" and is the former head of design at the British Council, which involved him in visiting 23 countries.

"Richard Moon's proposals were the closest to our view of what we needed," Mr Muir says. One of Mr Moon's core recommendations was to streamline channels of communication within the Foreign Office and bring in professionals to oversee the work. "It was the only Whitehall department without communication professionals handling the publications," Mr Moon says. "The only staff were diplomats."

A professional head of publications has now been appointed and two professionals from the government information service and two career diplomats are being recruited to make up a publications team.

The design programme will enable embassies anywhere to produce their own publications to a consistent standard, using local

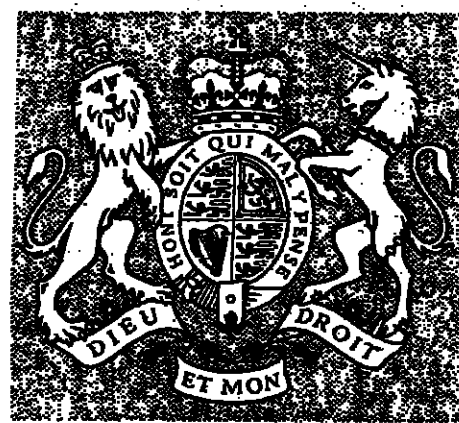
suppliers. "There is a certain amount of flexibility in the manual, but we are ensuring the same typeface style and version of the royal crest and Union Jack," Mr Muir says.

The design team worked closely on the royal coat of arms with Sir Colin Cole, the Garter King of Arms at the College of Arms, in London, and the adviser to the government on heraldry. Its proportions were modified so that it would work well in small as well as large sizes and the Queen gave her approval in February.

The new, official, version of the Union Jack dates back to 1807 and was originally designed for ambassadors to give the correct proportions to local flag-makers. Mr Moon discovered it while he was leafing through leather-bound volumes at the library of the Foreign Office.

The typeface chosen to convey Britain's image abroad is Baskerville, which was designed about 200 years ago by John Baskerville. Mr Moon chose it for its combination of the modern and classic. "The publications in embassies cover the spectrum of British life — food, tourism, culture, industry — and reflect every government department," Mr Moon says. "So the elements of the design have to allow for a wide range of tastes and subjects."

When design proposals were



Heralding change: top, the traditional, royal coat of arms, and Mr Moon's new version

presented to Sir Geoffrey Howe, he spent twice his allotted time discussing the details. He suggested some capital letters should be replaced by upper and lower case, and that a rather elongated version of the new coat of arms should be condensed. By the time modifications were complete, Mr Major was the foreign secretary who approved them. The entire design programme was finally passed by Douglas Hurd. "Gaining approval from three foreign secretaries did not hold the work up. We kept it moving all the time," Mr Muir says.

By establishing a system of project management which eliminates duplication of titles and avoids waste, the cost of setting up the design programme — estimated at just under £200,000 — will be repaid within the first year. "We aim to make a saving of £40,000 on stationery alone," Mr Muir says. "At the same time as better communicating government policies."

Every design element has been fed into a computer system in anticipation of the time when all embassies will have the technology to produce their own literature using desktop publishing. "That will mean even more cost savings," Mr Muir says.

Most ambassadors and diplomats who have seen Britain's new look approve it, according to Mr Muir. "The Foreign Office is great at making its people toe the line," Mr Moon says.

JEREMY MYERSON

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## A history of self-adornment, or ears down the years

EAR-piercing is the one form of mutilation in the cause of beauty that most of us, even Gerald Ratner, submit to. In the past hundred years or so ear-piercing for young girls has been something of a ritual, almost a rite of passage into womanhood. So important and significant are earrings to the story of personal adornment that two Sotheby's experts, Daniela Mascetti and Amanda Triossi, have written a book devoted to the history of these aural ornaments.

The task is an ambitious one, because the history of earrings is the history of jewellery itself, with added emphasis on hairstyles, hats, collars, national culture, and any other phenomena that influence fashions at ear level.

Earrings, it seems, have been worn since prehistoric times, and have rarely been out of fashion since, except for a while in the Middle

Ages when women, especially married women, covered their hair and, later, their ears too with a chin strap joined to a stiffened head band. Earrings seem to have regained popularity in the 17th century, when the pearl earring was especially favoured. A 17th century text explains that women have always hung pearls from their ears "because of the pleasure they derive (as Pliny observes) from feeling them swing when they touch each other". The same writer continues: "The first part that a man must have from his wife and which the wife must faithfully preserve is the ear, so that no speech or sound may enter in other than the sweet sound of chaste words which are oriental pearls of the Gospel."

The book charts every passing fashion in ear wear, from the glorious goldwork of ancient civilisations, through the richness of the late

Renaissance years, to the elegant 18th century, when women, rather unreasonably for the Age of Reason, wore hairstyles like towering infernos and exquisite, long, drop earrings like chandeliers to balance the effect. The 19th century, besotted with jewels of all kinds, went in for wit and whimsy and glorified revivals of past styles before the art movements of the turn of the century pushed design in the direction of modernism and the machine age.

The shockingly short haircuts of the mid Twenties gave earrings a new lease of life, and from then on earrings have been a vital part of any suite of jewels, and important vehicles for the latest design trend.

V.B.

Earrings: From Antiquity to the Present, by Daniela Mascetti and Amanda Triossi, is published by Thames & Hudson, price £30.

## Harvest of the hurricane

The exotic victims of Kew are transformed into furniture

When the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew were asked by cabinet-makers about rare timber which might be available after the storm of October 1987, it decided to invite a limited number of leading furniture craftsmen to choose some cut timber.

This week, their work will go on show in an exhibition at the Kew Gardens gallery. "After the hurricane, which destroyed 500 trees and damaged 1,000 others at Kew, as well as destroying about 20,000 more at the annex garden at Wakehurst Place, in Sussex, we wanted to do something positive," says Laura Giuffrida, the coordinator of the exhibition. "Members of the public up and down the country were expressing concern at seeing so much storm-damaged timber, which is a natural resource, being burnt."

Some of the timber was rotten and of no commercial use, but much of it was sound. Usually, it is uneconomical for a small cabinet-maker to accept an offer of a storm-damaged tree because he has to pay for it to be cut on site and transported to a merchant, where it is planked, kiln-dried and transported to the workshop. The craftsmen selected by Kew had only to pay for the timber to be planked, kiln-dried and transported to their workshops. As a result, wood which might usually have cost £30 per cu. ft. cost £7.

Fred Baier, who preceded the Memphis group in staining furniture in bright colours and in his use of unconventional forms, has made a desk in oak stained dark blue and bright orange, with a dark blue leather top (price, £4,500). In contrast is Richard La Trobe Bateman's robust and simple folding desk and chair, made from American red oak. Mr Bateman says that, in its natural habitat,



Reflection of a craftsman: an oak table by Rupert Williamson

this variety of tree grows more slowly after the first 100 years. But Kew's specimen, which had been well tended in a cleared space, continued to grow until, after about 140 years, it fell in the storm.

Rupert Williamson is exhibiting a table (£3,910) and chair (£2,565) in oak which he put in a tent with some ammonia, creating a reaction on the tannin in the timber and darkening it. He is also displaying a dramatic sideboard (£9,500) made from a rare Californian timber, osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*). The wood turned out a surprisingly vivid yellow, so he has combined the timber with bronze, working with Mike Davies, a sculptor, to create sculptured bronze joints.

Toby Winteringham, from King's Lynn, in Norfolk, who is known for his geometric inlaid mirrors and tables, is showing a very simple and elegant side table with a drawer, made from American ash, with gilded cone detailing (£1,500).

The final craftsman, Jeremy Broun, has made a low table in solid section straight from the tree (£2,240). The cleverness lies in the invisible joints, while the mark of the saw has been left on the edges to provide a contrast to the smooth top.

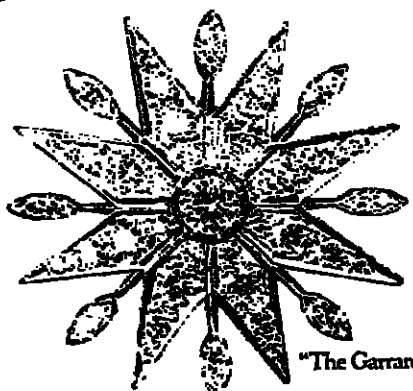
One piece which was commissioned for the exhibition will not be on show. It is an 18ft dining table to seat 20 made by Ashley Cartwright from an American red oak with a butt (the length of log in the round) long enough to make without joints the top, which is lined to enhance the wood's coarse grain. The table (£10,000) is already in a private dining room, in preparation for Christmas entertaining.

PETA LEVI

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Admission to Kew Gardens gallery costs £3 (including admission to the gardens), via the main gate or Victoria Gate. The exhibition will run from Friday to January 27, every day 9.30am-5.15pm (Closed December 24, 25, 26 and January 1.)

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To mark this important event Garrard has designed and created "THE GARRARD STAR" a Diamond Brooch set in 18 ct gold that can be adapted to be worn in an unusual variety of ways. Priced from £2300. Exclusively available at Garrard.

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## CINEMA

# Sweltering sex and sheltering sky

Classics of modern literature need a little help when they reach the screen — or so the film-makers think. Geoff Brown reports

Times are hard for the written word. Standards of literacy are under attack. Youngsters fidget before a page of text: there is no noise, no movement or garish colour to the rows of letters neatly marshalled into words, sentences and paragraphs. Modern life's visual bedlam usually gets the blame: how can anyone cultivate the quiet skill of reading amidst the barrage of television, video games and movies?

But distinctions must be made. Hollywood's pursuit of the lowest commercial denominator may be swamping cinemas with comic-strip junk of varying pretensions, yet film-makers have not completely abandoned either intelligence or literature. The fat paperback bestseller is now primarily television fodder: over two weeks in October, NBC offered its beighted American viewers miniature versions of two novels by Danielle Steel (*Kalidoscope*, *Fine Things*) and two by Jackie Collins (*Lucky*, *Chances*).

Cinema, hearteningly, has bigger fish to fry. The writings and lives of Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin fall into the frying pan in *Henry and June*, released in Britain next week. On its heels comes Bernardo Bertolucci's film of Paul Bowles' first novel, *The Sheltering Sky*. In the last few years, works by Milan Kundera, Hubert Selby Jr, Malcolm Lowry and New Zealand's Janet Frame — no Enid Blytons, these — have all galloped bravely on to the screen; while the future plans of Bertolucci's producer Jeremy Thomas include William Burroughs' *The Naked Lunch*. These are not the films of an industry giving up on Gutenberg.

Challenging literature, of course, can be as full of sex and violence as any hard potboiler. If Henry Miller had been as demure as Beatrix Potter, we would not be watching his antics grandly, handsomely and lovingly unfurl in a 135-minute feature. Philip Kauf-

man's *Henry and June* is based on Anaïs Nin's posthumous memoir about her passionate affair with Miller in Paris during 1931-2; the June of the title is Henry's magnetic wife, who exerted her own fascination over Nin.

At first, the American movie industry's regulating body granted the film its lethal X certificate, associated in the public mind with plain pornography. A cry of rage from Universal Studios, on the heels of mounting criticism over other X ratings, prompted a re-assessment. *Henry and June* became the first film released in America with a new certificate, NC-17, limiting the audience to 17 years-olds and over.

The NC stands for No Children, which is only proper: Miller and Nin spend so much time in bed, on the floor, visiting bars and brothels, that one wonders how they ever came to write the works that made their reputations. The hard literary slog is nowhere. Petite Anaïs Nin (played by a Portuguese actress, Maria de Medeiros) jots down just a few entries in her famous diary, curled up in bed like a Persian cat; while Miller (Fred Ward, with shaved head and glasses) sits briefly at a typewriter bashing out the last lines of *Tropic of Cancer*. Nin's own novel, *House of Incest*, is produced one day out of thin air. "House of Incest?" says June, abruptly perusing a handy manuscript. "It's nice."

Yet if *Henry and June* does little to improve the movies' usual depiction of the creative process, the film earns points for presenting both writers as dedicated wreckers of taboos, and guiding lights for future bestsellers or feminists. *Tropic of Cancer*, Miller himself wrote, was "a gob of spit in the face of Art, a kick in the pants to God, Man, Destiny, Time, Love, Beauty". Kaufman's film is too poised and grandiose ever to resemble a gob of spit, yet it captures Miller's reckless spirit far better than Joseph Strick's



Two of a ménage à trois: Maria de Medeiros and Uma Thurman in *Henry and June*, the film based on novelist Anaïs Nin's memoirs

slapdash *Tropic of Cancer* film of 1970 — set in a Paris that smacked more of the late Sixties than the Bohemian belle époque.

Paul Bowles presents a far tougher case for cinema treatment than the effusions of Miller and Nin. In his novels and stories Bowles uses words the way a surgeon wields a scalpel. He wears a mask of chilling objectivity, watching unmoved as his characters painfully succumb to psychic disintegration, hallucination and moral decay. How can this nettlesome be grasped, let alone laid before a general movie audience wanting a good night out?

In his version of *The Sheltering Sky* — a frightening tale of American tourists stripped of their sophisticated veneer in North Africa — Bertolucci massages the material with visual inducements.

Sweeping desert landscapes are designed and photographed with the aplomb one expects from the team that bagged a shelf-full of Oscars for *The Last Emperor*. Bertolucci also draws on sex power. John Malkovich, newly fashionable, plays the husband, Port Moresby, while Debra Winger breathes her own special warmth into the role of his wife, Kit.

Lower down the cast list, we find, somewhat surprisingly, Bowles himself. The 79-year-old author, who was never a character in the original novel, appears periodically like a ghost from the future, wrapped in observation, tight-lipped, watching over his fictional creations. On the soundtrack, Bowles intones

selected sentences in his flat, clipped voice, in a clumsy attempt to restore some of the literary weight removed in the scripting process. Bertolucci and his collaborator Mark Peploe deliberately set out to parade as much as they could of the novel's whims and wherefores in the characters' surface behaviour; the few snatches of the narrator's musings only serve to perplex, and open up the chasm between a page of text and images dancing on a silver screen.

The chasm remains, of course, even if the source material is relatively conventional. David Lean's academic brand of editing and shot composition proved ruinous to key elements of E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*: he trampled over Forster's irony and the abiding sense of

India's "otherness", exemplified by the Marabar Caves. The camera's eye — geared for display, not nuance — can easily simplify and coarsen; while the narrative canvas of a two-hour feature is far too streamlined for the torrent of characters and sinuous plots of Victorian fiction, or the structural games of much modern writing. Yet, for all the pitfalls, films inspired by intransigent books should and will continue to be made. Few may hit the box-office jackpot. Certainly, few have in the past, even when the source material reached bestseller status. But when most original scripts consist of cross variations on a handful of formulae, *The Sheltering Sky* and its fellows present a vital challenge. They dare the film-maker to match art with art, to fight a duel with a masterpiece.

## BRIEFING

## Elementary omission

WITH the announcement of the Prudential Award for the Arts less than a week away, it is worth noting that the fruits of last year's award will not even be seen in London. Rambert Dance Company, which won £100,000 last year, spent £40,000 on a new work by the American post-modernist choreographer Lucinda Childs. The piece, *Four Elements*, receives its world premiere on Friday at the Apollo Theatre in Oxford, before going on tour. But when the company comes to London for a spring season at the Riverside Studios, *Four Elements* will not be on offer, apparently because Jennifer Bartlett's set designs are too ambitious for Riverside's limited stage facilities. Perhaps Rambert should have thought twice before parting ways with Sadler's Wells Theatre, its previous London home.

### Knuckle rap

AS IF having footballer Paul "Gazza" Gascoigne at No 2 in the charts, with "Fog on the Tyne" were not sporting enough, the pop world is now bracing itself for the release of the debut single by world-middieweight boxing champion Nigel Benn. His rap record, "Stand and Fight", comes out next Monday, the day after he defends his world title by fighting Chris Eubank in Birmingham. However, the rock-sport crossover is not, all one-way. Reggae group UB40 has helped to finance a new gym, The Cauliflower Ear, in Birmingham which is intended to become a "focus for boxing". It will be officially opened tomorrow by none other than Nigel Benn.

### Last chance

KARL HORST HÖDICK, though himself only 52, has been, famously an influence on, and mentor to, a whole generation of younger German artists. Consequently his own achievements have been left a little in the shade. But his recent paintings, centred on the figure of Kaspar, a maligned/patetic German equivalent of Mr PUNCH, show his brilliant colour and strong dramatic sense to great advantage. They can be seen at the Raab Gallery at Millbank (071-828-2588) until Saturday.

## GALLERIES

## Touching scene at the Tate

Joseph Williams discovers new means by which visitors who are blind or who have impaired sight can derive pleasure from paintings and sculptures

Finding a water-tight definition of art is virtually impossible. "A representation of reality" or "a depiction of the beauty of nature" once sounded promising, until along came abstract art and kicked those two ideas off the easel.

Now it is even debatable whether art must be a visual medium in the first place. Blind and visually impaired visitors to art galleries derive a profound sense of pleasure from art through tactile sensations. Now, with the aid of braille-like maps for paintings, as well as new touch-sculpture tours, the Tate Gallery is launching today special services for the blind and visually impaired, to cover modern abstract and figurative works.

One of the joys for partially sighted people is sharing a pleasure which up till recently has eluded them. Artists themselves would sympathise: Picasso, Monet and Turner all suffered a major deterioration in their eyesight. Even for people who have been blind from birth, for whom there are no memories or associations, touch offers a unique way of understanding art.

"Delight, amazement, a complete revelation," is how Liz Matthews, a young under-

graduate without even residual vision, describes her responses to relief-map paintings. The maps consist of sheets of plastic, moulded and hollowed out into sculptural representations of original paintings. They look like small repoussée designs in plastic, but when they are used in conjunction with the essential aid of a taped guiding script, they can throw light on paintings in a darkened world. "I want so much to know what colour is, what people see that I will never see," says Matthews. "Of course the map can't explain colour, but I try to understand red, for example, as an object, or a feeling of heat or danger."

For Alison Oldland of the Living Paintings Trust, the charity which distributes the tapes and sheets, sponsorship has provided the funds to continue. One album of ten thermoform sheets or paintings, reproduced 100 times, can cost as much as £5,000. The lending service is free to visually impaired people, and sculpture tours are normally booked in advance.

Touching sculptures has long been recognised as an important process of understanding, and past exhibitions have been specifically aimed



Enjoying art by touch: partially sighted Glynis Steinkamp explores one of Picasso's works

at letting sighted and unsighted visitors touch works by artists such as Barbara Hepworth, who was especially interested in tactile responses to her works. Relief maps are also popular at the National Gallery.

Now the challenge for Simon Wilson, head of education at the Tate, is to enable visually impaired people to enjoy abstract as well as figurative works. This is relatively easy for the abstract relief of Ben Nicholson, but translating simple monochromes into artistic braille may be impossible.

Of the 140,000 people in Britain registered as visually impaired, only 20,000 are

completely blind, so any residual vision is of enormous value when combined with the sensation of touch. Added to this is an increasing awareness that the experience of art is not purely visual. We all have an instinct to touch art from childhood onwards, to blow off the halo of mystique that threatens to envelop it. "Do not touch" warns the sign — which is strange because for centuries great works of art were constantly handled and bargained over, not simply hung up in galleries.

Touch can even flick off some old aesthetic assumptions. Modern artists are increasingly dissatisfied with depicting just what they "see"; they seek deeper responses in

terms of forms, ideas and imagination. Ideas are there for sighted and unsighted alike. "Everybody has a sense of touch," says Glynis Steinkamp, who has only a little residual vision with which to enjoy art. "Sighted people can sometimes forget how to use it."

For further information on art services for the visually impaired, contact The Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 1313).

## RECORDS: CLASSICAL

## Long march into Haydn

PERIOD-STYLE performances have become a corner-stone of the record industry's classical market. So it was perhaps inevitable that Christopher Hogwood and the Academy of Ancient Music should mark the evolution which has taken place since Antal Dorati recorded all of Haydn's symphonies, by embarking on a new cycle.

Hogwood's is the second such attempt. CBS's enterprise, with L'Estro Armonico, was abandoned a while ago. Hogwood and Decca will release 15 volumes over a period of ten years, and not, it seems, in any chronological order. So the first release is entitled Volume Four, and includes nine symphonies written in 1764 and 1765. It can be recommended. Hogwood's direction lacks the neurotic intensity of Pinnock's (or for that matter of Rattle's), but each of these highly individual pieces, the best known of which are the mock-solemn "Philosopher", No 22, and the "Horn-signal", No 31, comes across brightly turned. Comparison with the earlier volumes in this group's Mozart cycle, begun in the late Seventies, is revealing. Those recordings had an air of daring experimentation; the playing was often excitingly rough. Here, the sense of adventure comes straight from the music, and is relayed in performances of sophisticated fidelity and accuracy.

Recordings of Mozart symphonies are, of course, now appearing in torrents. Ton Koopman, with his Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, tackles four early symphonies. There is much raw excitement here, as one has come to expect from Koopman, who champions an audaciously spontaneous approach to performance, testing the nerves and technique of his players to their limits.

John Eliot Gardiner's readings of the "Prague" Symphony and No 39 are noble, vivid, and, for all their punchy rhythms, carefully shaped. The finale of the E flat major symphony is a case in point; the spine tingles and the heart keeps, yet the mind stays clear.

C.P.E. Bach's "Hamburg" Symphonies, though composed during Mozart's lifetime, are strictly of an earlier age. In place of Mozart's classical balance there is constant harmonic and melodic surprise. Members of the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, directed by Thomas Hengelbrock, play three of these symphonies crisply, and with the harpsichordist Andreas Staier and the oboist Hans-Peter Westermann, they make an equally good job of a scintillating pair of concertos. These recordings all use period-style instruments. It is impossible to disqualify an account of Mozart's C minor Mass as spiritually powerful as Peter Schreier's, simply on the grounds that he uses

"conventional" forces. His team of solo singers (Barbara Hendricks, Pamela Coburn, Hans-Peter Blochwitz and Andreas Schmidt) all have powerful, operatic voices yet, happily, exercise stylish control, and the Leipzig Radio Chorus and the orchestra of the Dresden Staatskapelle never sound over-scaled.

In the same work, Hogwood prefers an all-male choir (Winchester Cathedral and College) and light-voiced soloists — Eileen Anger, Lynne Dawson,

John Mark Ainsley and David Thomas. The edition he uses was specially prepared by the scholar Richard Maunder, who constructs an eight-part choral text for the Sanctus, Osanna and Benedictus (which exist only as an organ part and a short score hastily copied by another musician) and completes the orchestration of the two extant sections of the Credo.

STEPHEN PETTITT

## Time Out

LONDON'S WEEKLY GUIDE NOVEMBER 14-21 1990 No.1056 £1.20

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After The Evil Dead: The Grimdark Cometh  
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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-30  
● LAW 32,33  
● SPORT 36-40

# BUSINESS

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 13 1990

## Edinburgh Crystal buyout supported

**CALDEONIA** Investments, the investment company controlled by the Cayzer family, is supporting the management buyout of Edinburgh Crystal from the receivers of the failed Coleridge home furnishings group.

Edinburgh Crystal has an annual turnover of more than £20 million. Following the acquisition, the company will concentrate all British manufacturing at Penicuik, Lothian, closing production facilities at Stourbridge in the West Midlands.

### Merger probe

The European Community's executive commission has begun an official investigation into a merger between Wiggins Teape Appleton of Britain and Groupe Arjomari-Prioux of France, that will create Europe's biggest paper manufacturer. Under the deal announced last week, WTA will acquire almost all of Arjomari-Prioux's assets and the French firm will take a 39 per cent stake in the British firm through a new common stock issue, but the new group will trade under the WTA label. The commission has powers to block major alliances if it judges they would reduce competition in EC industry.

### Nadir refusal

Asil Nadir, the chairman of Polly Peck International, has refused to appear at personal bankruptcy proceedings, which are due to be heard tomorrow afternoon. Lehman Brothers, the securities house, and Barclays de Zoete Wedd, which are suing him for £22.1 million for alleged share purchases, have taken out a personal bankruptcy petition and will put their case in the bankruptcy registry in Carey Street in the City. Mr Nadir will be represented by his solicitors. A spokesman refused to comment on whether Mr Nadir would challenge the petition.

### THE FOUND

US dollar 1.9630 (-0.0040)  
German mark 2.9063 (-0.0208)  
Exchange index 94.0 (-0.4)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1589.7 (+7.1)  
FT-SE 100 2051.9 (+11.3)  
New York Dow Jones 2526.73 (+38.12)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave Closed

Closing Prices ... Page 29  
Major indices and major changes Page 30

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14%  
3-month Treasury 12 1/4-13 1/4%  
3-month sterling bills 13 1/4-13 1/2%  
US: Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 7 1/4%  
3-month Treasury 7.06-7.05%  
30-year bonds 10 1/4-10 1/2%

### CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£: \$1.9630  
DM: £2.9063  
Sfr: £2.4528  
FF: £9.7659  
Yen: £252.74  
Ecu: £1.9630  
Ecu: £1.9630  
Ecu: £1.9630

### GOLD

London: 381.90 pm-380.70  
class 381.75-382.25 (194.50-195.00)  
New York: 382.00-382.50

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) ... \$31.95/bbl (\$33.60)  
Densities latest trading prices

### TOURIST RATES

| Bank        | Buy    | Sell   |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| Australia   | 2.50   | 2.45   |
| Austria     | 21.40  | 20.10  |
| Belgium     | 36.75  | 36.75  |
| Canada      | 2.367  | 2.367  |
| Denmark     | 11.60  | 11.60  |
| Finland     | 7.35   | 6.86   |
| France      | 16.18  | 9.58   |
| Germany     | 1.96   | 1.96   |
| Greece      | 317.00 | 297.00 |
| Hong Kong   | 15.80  | 15.00  |
| India       | 1.05   | 1.05   |
| Italy       | 205    | 215    |
| Japan       | 267.00 | 252.00 |
| Netherlands | 3.415  | 3.215  |
| Norway      | 11.95  | 11.15  |
| Portugal    | 267.00 | 251.00 |
| Spain       | 169.00 | 179.00 |
| Sweden      | 11.34  | 10.70  |
| Switzerland | 1.96   | 1.96   |
| Turkey      | 5700   | 5200   |
| USA         | 2.045  | 1.945  |
| Yugoslavia  | 27.00  | 20.00  |

Rates for small denomination bank only are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 129.3 (September)

## Stock exchange criticises Tottenham directors

By MICHAEL TATE, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

**IRVING** Scholar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, and biggest single shareholder in the parent company, failed to meet the standard expected from a listed-company director, says the International Stock Exchange.

He is said to have acted improperly and to have failed to comply with the Companies Act's disclosure requirements in his personal financial dealings with the company. Spurs has been told its entire board's behaviour has been "unacceptable".

The criticisms come in a long-awaited circular to Spurs shareholders that contains details of an independent legal report on the events of last August, when Mr Scholar persuaded Robert Maxwell, the publisher and

fellow football enthusiast, to help salvage the company's financial position. Mr Maxwell was persuaded to lend Mr Scholar £1.1 million to enable the club to pay for Gary Lineker, the England striker, and to agree to underwrite a £13.2 million rescue rights issue.

The legal report, by Ashurst Morris Crisp, alleges signed confidentiality undertakings about these arrangements were pre-dated by Mr Scholar to incorporate an amendment agreed ten days later, which "had the effect of misleading the board", the lawyers say.

They also accuse Mr Scholar of failing to comply with the company's articles of association and with the Companies Act in connection with the million loan. The company was also wrong to authorise him to enter into the underwriting agreement he had with Mr Maxwell's Headington Investments.

Douglas Alexiou, acting chairman of the company since the ousting of Paul Bobroff in September, says, however, Mr Scholar acted "with the benefit of legal advice and in the best interests of the company as he saw them".

The exchange wants a further executive director and a permanent chairman appointed. It is two months since Mr Bobroff was removed. Mr Alexiou said the company was looking for a new finance director and a non-executive chairman from outside.

Meanwhile Spurs shares stay suspended. The exchange will not permit trading until it has seen the financial results for the year to end-May and a satisfactory statement about the funding of future working capital requirements.

The shareholders' letter shows a string of Spurs disasters — the east stand redevelopment, where construction costs almost doubled to £8.7 million, the Martin fashionwear offshoot, where a collapse in demand has led to heavy stock write-offs, and the licensing agreement with Hummel, the Danish sportswear firm, now severed at the cost of an extraordinary loss. "A significant overall loss for the period will result," the letter says.

The report says the group's borrowing facilities are now on demand after breaches of certain covenants, and that its banker, Midland Bank, has instituted its own financial and operational review.

Mr Alexiou says a plan to improve trading and lower debt levels has been developed. This could include selling more players, but not Lineker or Paul Gascoigne.

Talks would resume with Mr Maxwell and with others over the refinancing.

## Slump in shop sales confirms recession

By ANATOLE KALETSKY

A WORSE than expected fall in Britain's retail sales last month confirmed that the economy is sliding deeper into recession and contributed to pressure on sterling in the foreign exchange.

Sterling fell to DM2.9025 in early New York trading, more than three pence lower than the day before Britain's entry into the European exchange mechanism (ERM) and less than 1 per cent above its ERM floor against the peseta.

For the government the bad news on retail sales was partly offset by a slowdown in wholesale inflation. But this only added to the concerns among currency dealers that the high interest rates underpinning sterling would soon be cut.

The provisional index of retail sales volumes fell by 1.1 per cent between September and October to 121.4, a much bigger decline than even the more pessimistic of City analysts' predictions of 0.7 per cent. October's sales were 0.4 per cent down on a year earlier, providing further confirmation that the economy was now in recession, since it represented the first such year-on-year decline since 1982.

In terms of the three-month averages, which government statisticians prefer to use because they smooth out short-term fluctuations, retail sales were down 1.4 per cent on the previous three-month period and just 0.1 per cent higher than the year before. Producer output prices rose by 0.4 per cent in October, a slight acceleration on September's 0.3 per cent increase, but still below City estimates. The increase in producer prices in the year to October was 1.8 per cent, down from September's 5.9 per cent.

Manufacturers' input prices fell 0.9 per cent seasonally adjusted, compared with a 2 per cent increase in September. Government statisticians said the rising costs of petroleum products as a result of the Gulf conflict were more than offset by falls in the prices of metals and food-manufacturing materials.

Sterling had already fallen more than two pence to below DM2.91 in response to the possible challenge to Margaret Thatcher's leadership before the statistics were released yesterday morning. After stabilising in London, the pound came under renewed pressure from New York, although it fell only marginally against a generally weak dollar, to \$1.4650, and by almost half a penny against the mark, to DM2.9099.

## Racal plans to demerge Vodafone

By JOHN BELL, CITY EDITOR

**RACAL** Electronics is planning a restructuring that involves a demerger of its Racal Telecom subsidiary, which owns the successful Vodafone cellular radio operation.

The move gave rise to speculation that the Racal board may have decided on the restructuring to forestall an imminent takeover bid.

The 80 per cent of RT owned by Racal Electronics is to be given directly to shareholders along with shares in Racal Chubb, the group's security operation. The remaining trading activities of Racal Electronics are to be the subject of a management buyout led by Sir Ernest Harrison, chairman of both the so-called Racal twins.

The moves took the City by surprise. Before the 1988 takeover of Racal Telecom, Sir Ernest fought and won a long and bitter proxy battle with Millicom, the American electronic group, which pressed for a complete demerger. Institutional investors eventually backed Sir Ernest's plans, which involved the sale of just 20 per cent of Racal Telecom. Nick Measham, electronics analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said: "This appears to be a complete about-face."

The demerger plan was finalised on Sunday during a board meeting at Sir Ernest's home in Telford, Surrey. Some analysts were angry that few details appear to have been settled. No documents relating to the proposed transactions were available yesterday.

In a statement, Racal Electronics said it had been disappointed that the share price of Racal Electronics had consistently failed to reflect the full value of its 80 per cent holding in Racal Telecom. "At times, it has appeared the traditional Racal companies and the Racal Chubb security group have had a negative valuation."

"After careful consideration, the board has reached the conclusion that these measures are best calculated to bring a true market value to the holdings of the Racal Electronics shareholders."

A Racal spokesman said no further statements would be made until discussions had taken place with advisers about the mechanics of the proposals.

Sir Ernest was not available for comment. It is not known whether he has appointed advisers to determine the terms of his buyout for the non-Chubb and telecom interests of Racal Electronics, nor could the spokesman say what interim arrangements had been made for the conduct of board meetings during the buyout period.

The spokesman denied that the plans were announced to head off a takeover bid. "We have had no approaches nor have there been any unusual changes in our share register."

Racal Electronics shares rose sharply on news of the restructuring, but fell back to show a 16p gain at 180p.

On an initial reading, analysts said that shares in Racal Electronics should be valued at about 200p pending further details. Mr Measham said that Racal Telecom shares were worth about 275p in the near term, which underpinned a price of 200p for Racal Electronics, assuming that no bid premium was placed on the Chubb interests.

Piers Whitehead, of Robert Fleming, agreed with a 200p valuation and said that institutional investors would almost certainly approve the proposals as a way of releasing their value to shareholders.

Sewall Hodges, senior analyst at Arnold and S Bleichroeder, the New York institutional investment bank, said: "I don't think one can believe that Sir Ernest is acting in a totally altruistic manner here. That's not the game plan as I read it. A lot of the hidden value of the Racal Electronics shares is in the companies which Sir Ernest is about to take private. I suspect its going to turn a lot more than he's going to pay for it."

"To make a good deal for him, the value is in the non-telecommunications business, because those are the most difficult to value and he knows what they are worth and we don't."

Comment, page 27

Looking out for buyers: Nicholas Wills, chief executive of BET, yesterday

## BET stake in Thames up for sale

**NICHOLAS** Wills, chief executive of BET, is looking for a buyer for the group's 28 per cent stake in Thames Television before the year-end and will cut capital spending by £100 million to reduce borrowings.

Shares in the business support services group tumbled 15p to 166p after Mr Wills announced a 5 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £137 million in the six months to end-September and a 40 per cent rise in borrowings to £617 million since the year-end, due to delays in asset sales and late payment by customers.

The sale of Boulton and Paul has been put off through lack of buyers.

The interim dividend rises from 4p to 4.25p.

Tempus, page 27

## SE order for Walker

By NEIL BENNETT

THE Stock Exchange ordered Brent Walker, the troubled leisure group, to make an official statement on its refinancing arrangement, after weekend reports that bankers had agreed to a debt standstill until the end of 1991 made the company's share price gain 20p to 98p in early trading.

Smith New Court, the company's broker, admitted

the company was still in talks with 60 bankers over the £1.4 billion refinancing.

The standstill depends on shareholders agreeing to a £103 million convertible bond issue at an extraordinary meeting on Thursday.

Brent Walker promised a further statement "as soon as reasonably practicable". The shares ended up just 2p at 80p.

Tempus, page 27

## Pan Am and TWA link in doubt

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

AN OFFER of \$450 million by TWA to merge with Pan Am provoked scepticism in the aviation industry that serious negotiations between two of the weakest and most vulnerable airlines in North America would actually take place.

Instead, Pan Am, which received TWA's offer in a letter last week, is pressing ahead with plans to sell part of its operations, including routes out of Heathrow, to United Airlines and remains confident that a deal can be signed tomorrow.

The TWA offer, which will remain on the table for the rest of this week, depends on United's proposals being formally rejected by Pan Am or by the American government.

The TWA offer is based on giving Pan Am shareholders \$1 a share in cash and \$2 a share in face value of preferred stock. As Pan Am has about 150 million shares outstanding, this would mean its value at \$3 dollars per share would

amount to \$450 million. Carl Icahn, the TWA chairman, claimed Pan Am had invited TWA to make the offer for Pan Am and that the offer applied only if Pan Am's agreement to sell the transatlantic routes to United fell through.

Pan Am executives are, however, bemused by the offer which appears at first sight to have little merit. Under the existing arrangement to sell Pan Am's Heathrow operations and a range of other facilities to United, Pan Am would have an immediate injection of \$400 million with which to pay off some of its \$1 billion of debts and would retain its identity, while gaining from a new marketing agreement with one of the most powerful airlines in the world.

By selling the Heathrow routes, Pan Am will lose only 3 per cent of its total transatlantic services. Pan Am would still retain links with 33 European cities and its Miami hub from which it operates 200 flights a day.

Its South American network would remain intact and it would be able to

build on its New York hub operation. The agreement with United also includes some attractive marketing links enabling Pan Am customers to qualify for United's frequent-flyer programme, a feature of the deal which Pan Am calculates could be worth at least \$100 million a year and possibly as much as \$300 million.

Pan Am had hoped to be back in the black by the beginning of next year, but it is now accepted that this timetable has slipped by at least 18 months, even if the United deal goes ahead.

The TWA proposal would lead to the disappearance of the airline, would raise problems with the American department of transportation over competition and would not create a natural "fit" between the two airlines' existing route structure. A Pan Am official said: "Given all that, we are pressing ahead with the United agreement. What we, and everyone else, are now pondering is what message Mr Icahn is really trying to get over by making such a bid."

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## Walker calls for speedy removal of SA sanctions



Walker: help South Africa

By COLIN CAMPBELL  
MINING CORRESPONDENT

PETER Walker, the former cabinet minister, has called on countries that were quick to apply sanctions against South Africa in disapproval of apartheid to move with equal speed to remove them.

Mr Walker said yesterday that if sanctions were lifted, but the South African government dragged its feet, the threat of reimposition would be effective enough to ensure that feet were not dragged.

The world should rally around South Africa and make sure reforms

worked. When the system did change, the European Community should give South Africa some preferential treatment, he added.

Barend du Plessis, South Africa's minister of finance, told Smith New Court's seminar on investment in a post-apartheid South Africa that low-income South Africans were understandably impatient in their demands for the elimination of existing inequalities. Deliberate action by the authorities to advance and expedite the generation of work and income was inescapable. The government had already taken measures "to get out of the sunlight of economic activity",

and more steps were planned.

He said the financial rand, the investment currency through which foreign investors in South African equities can secure an annual rate of return of 23 per cent, or 10 per cent in real terms, should go "as soon as possible". The timing would depend on South Africa's access to the IMF and other financial agencies.

Chris Stals, the reserve bank governor, indicated South Africa had started to notice more favourable winds of change blowing over its economy. There had been a standstill in the extension of punitive and restrictive measures against South

Africa, but more definitive and positive action was needed. Inflation had eased from 15.7 per cent in June 1989 to 13.3 per cent in July this year, but recently rose to 14.3 per cent. Dr Stals said: "The authorities are of the opinion that the restrictive monetary and fiscal policies should be retained for the time being."

Thabo Mbeki, the ANC representative, said those who called for patience in achieving political and social changes should remember that the hungry are hungry for food today, not tomorrow.

Comment, page 27

## More jobs to go as profits fall 27% at British Steel

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Steel is embarking on a new round of cost-cutting, after a 27.4 per cent slide in first-half pre-tax profits to £307 million.

Sir Robert Scholey, chairman, said white-collar jobs, a quarter of BS's 55,650 workforce, would form the main focus of the review. In the past 12 months, about 1,000 blue-collar jobs have been shed, under a programme to cut numbers by 2,000. BS announced the closure of its Clydesdale seamless tube works in Lanarkshire last week, cutting 1,200 jobs.

Sir Robert declined to say how many administrative and managerial jobs would go, but Ian Lowe, of Smith New Court, the broker, thought the number could reach 1,000.

British Steel said a drop in steel demand, largely in the British market, had been the main cause of increased pressure for cost savings, but worldwide pressures played a part.

Sir Robert said British Steel was giving "serious consideration" to its long-term need for five large, integrated steel-making plants, but no decision was imminent. BS committed itself to maintaining production at the Ravenscroft works in Scotland, its highest cost plant, until 1994, unless economic and commercial factors made it impractical. He said British Steel had made

up for some lost British demand with higher exports, but profit margins on exports were thinner, and profitability was being eroded.

He also confirmed that British Steel was hoping to take over Tuscaloosa Steel, an American steel-maker in which BS has a near-10 per cent stake. Sir Robert said George Tippins, a Pittsburgh businessman who has a controlling shareholding in Tuscaloosa, was "showing an interest to talk".

Sir Robert said the dividend and capital spending policies would be kept under review, "particularly in the light of the worsening world economic scene and its impact on profits".

Brokers cut their profit forecasts. Rory Sweetman, at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, reduced his for the year to end-March 1991 from £540 million to £490 million, after allowing an estimated £100 million of exceptional costs. But he still expects a 7 per cent increase in the final dividend.

Mr Lowe cut his forecast from £545 million to £465 million. During the half year to September 30, BS sales fell £40 million to £2.51 billion. Exports rose by 10 per cent to account for 32 per cent of sales. Net cash at the end of the first half was £608 million. The interim dividend is 3p (2.75p). The shares fell 0.5p to 120p.

Comment, page 27

## BOC ahead to £354m



Richard Giordano (above), chairman and chief executive of BOC Group, the industrial gases to healthcare group, looks in with pre-tax profits of £354.3 million for the year to end-September against £333.4

million last year. Earnings per share rose by 6 per cent to 51.3p. The group's gas products performed satisfactorily, but the healthcare operations disappointed, with Glascock

Home Health Care running up an operating loss in America. The group is forecasting dividends of 20.4p a share for the current year.

Tempus, page 27

## Drought costs peg Mid Kent profits

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT  
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE impact of two years of drought on costs of treating and distributing water cut the profitability of Mid Kent Holdings. In the year to end-September, operating profit fell from £5.5 million to £4.3 million despite a 17 per cent rise in turnover to £23.7 million.

Pre-tax profits rose from £6 million to £6.4 million, but this was solely due to interest on money raised by a share issue.

The annual dividend is up from 6p to 7.5p per share, adjusted for transitional arrangements, from earnings up from 26p to 27.1p.

The rise in operating profit was due mainly to the effects of the drought but also partly to increased costs of financial and service regulation.

Mid Kent is part of a consortium with Southern Water and Folkestone & District Water planning to build the Broad Oak reservoir at a cost of about £65 million. Mid Kent says it would have to apply for further increases in charges to pay for the development.

The board is lobbying Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, to persuade him not to force Compagnie Générale des Eaux, the French group that owns neighbouring Folkestone, to reduce its holding in Mid Kent from 29 per cent to less than 20 per cent.

Mid Kent says divestment of part of the stake "would be contrary to the interests" of the company.

Hardlepoles Water is paying an interim dividend of 20p per share. In the six months to end-September, pre-tax profit was £460,000 (£400,000) on turnover up 9 per cent to £2.32 million.

## Strategic tunnel link plan

PLANS for a £120 million development of houses and business properties, with jobs for up to 4,000, at Darlington, County Durham, were unveiled by European Land.

European Land, a private company owned by James Cookson, intends to develop 120 acres close to the A1 and to a proposed Channel tunnel-related rail-freight terminal.

Mr Cookson said: "It is necessary to put the industrial facilities and homes in place if the Northeast is to attract overseas investment."

## Manganese shares slump

SHARES in Manganese Bronze Holdings fell 53p to 133p after pre-tax profits declined 17 per cent to £4.66 million in the year to end-July. Manganese, best known for its London taxi cab, blamed recessionary pressures and accountancy problems at its foundries, now being investigated by police.

Earnings per share slipped from 23.14p to 18.14p, but the final dividend stands at 4.5p, making an improved total of 7p (7.5p).

## Profits fall

BRIDPORT Gundry, the Dorset specialist netting, thread and webbing maker, has cut its final dividend after pre-tax profits fell from £1.04 million to £578,000 in the year to end-July. The final dividend is down to 1.9p (5.1p), making a reduced 3.8p (7p) for the year. Earnings per share fell from 5.05p to 3.41p. The shares were unchanged at 58p.

## Dividend cut

GREAT Western Resources, the American oil, gas and coal company quoted in London, reported net income down from \$10.9 million (£3.5 million) to \$4.11 million for the year to end-September. The company, 29.9 per cent owned by the Kuwait Investment Office, reported earnings of six cents a share, down from 14 cents. The total dividend is cut from 5.75p a share to 5.5p after a final payment of 3p.

## Losses at Butte

BUTTE Mining, which has mining interests in Britain, America and Australia, reported a half-time pre-tax loss of £1.37 million (£193,000 profit).

## Leeds Permanent rises to £171.3m

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Leeds Permanent Building Society has reported a 23.7 per cent increase in pre-tax profits last year despite making a £19.9 million provision for bad debts.

The fourth largest society had pre-tax profits of £171.3 million in the year to September 30 (£138.5 million). During the year, mortgage business fell from £3.35 billion to £2.25 billion but insurance and other commission-related sales produced an income of £90 million, an increase of £20 million.

The bad debt provision mostly related to domestic mortgages, with a small amount for credit card and unsecured lending customers. Last year's provision was £2.2 million.

Mike Blackburn, the chief executive, said that 95 per cent of all mortgage accounts were up to date, compared with 96.5 per cent a year ago. The



Blackburn: provision

## Baltica 'bid' defence

BALTICA, Denmark's largest insurance group, has protected itself against an imminent £10 billion (£909 million) hostile bid from Hafnia Holding, its main rival by controlling a majority group of its shareholders to sign an agreement to back the existing management (Neil Bennett writes).

Baltica was threatened by a bid from Hafnia which had built up a 33 1/3 per cent stake. Hafnia was believed to want

to bid after Baltica acquired Statsantalen, the state-owned Danish life group, last month, although Hafnia insisted its stake was purely an investment.

The shareholders agreeing to protect Baltica are thought to be headed by Groupe Suez, which took a 23 per cent stake last year. They include ATP, the Danish state pension fund which owns an estimated 9 per cent of the shares.

## News Corp holding in Pearson falls to 11%

By OUR FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE News Corporation's stake in Pearson, the publishing conglomerate, has fallen from 17 per cent to 11 per cent as a result of conversion of preference shares of News Corp subsidiaries into the underlying Pearson stock.

News Corp, the international media group that owns The Times, issued the preference shares in five tranches to finance its holdings in Pearson and did not exercise its own option to redeem the preference shares and keep the Pearson stock. News Corp built its stake in Pearson to more than 20 per cent early in 1988 but this was later diluted by Pearson's share-swap deal with Elsevier, the Dutch publishing group.

News Corp and Pearson have been brought together by the planned merger of Sky Television and British Satellite Broadcasting. News Corp will own half the combined company, and Pearson 11 per cent. Pearson shares, which have been subject to speculation about the future of News Corp's stake, rose 5p to 627p.

## BHP Gold bid

BHP has accepted a takeover bid by Newmont Australia for its 54.9 per cent stake in BHP Gold. The merged operation will be among the world's largest 15 gold companies.

## Wardle Storeys up 53% to £11.08m

By MARTIN BARROW

TAXABLE profits at Wardle Storeys, the plastic sheeting and survival equipment group, rose 53 per cent from £7.25 million to £11.08 million during the year to end-August, making good much of the 34 per cent earnings shortfall that had occurred in the previous 12 months.

Earnings rose from 19.1p to 29.8p. A final dividend of 11p a share takes the total to 15p, up 7 per cent. Although turnover was virtually unchanged at £59.8 million, compared with £59.04 million in the previous period, operating profits rose from £6.16 million to £7.51 million as a result of a sharp recovery within the safety and survival equipment division.

The division increased its contribution from £446,000 to £1.78 million. Technical products, however, reported profits unchanged at £5.72 million.

Brian Taylor, chief executive, gave warning that the division faced "increasingly tough trading conditions as the recession deepens".

There was an extraordinary charge of £2.26 million (£1.36 million), comprising £1.69 million in respect of the write-down of the company's 3.9 per cent shareholding in Advest, another quoted company, and £755,000 to cover the closure of a military clothing business.

Wardle Storeys netted £3.57 million in investment income, against £3.3 million, after maintaining cash balances at £30 million, despite capital expenditure of £3 million.

Mr Taylor said he expected there would be suitable opportunities for acquisition in 1991 as prices being sought continued to decline.

In late 1988, Wardle Storeys unsuccessfully bid £83 million for Armstrong Equipment.

## Life rule may change

LIFE companies will be held responsible for the management activities of brokers who operate broker funds if regulations proposed by the trade department and the Securities and Investments Board go ahead. An estimated 600 brokers operate funds totalling £2 billion for life offices (Lindsay Cook writes).

The trade department told life offices yesterday that the proposed regulation under the

Insurance Companies Act would give legal force to the principle that life offices should be accountable for the acts of those they appoint to manage their linked funds. At present a policy might allow a life office to avoid any liability for the action of brokers appointed to manage linked funds. Interested parties have until December 13 to respond to the SIB consultative document.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## UK directors receive highest Euro pay rises

BRITAIN'S directors received the highest pay increases in Europe for the year ending July 1990, according to a survey by Moxie Partnership, the remuneration adviser. The survey also shows that earnings of UK board members remain among the lowest in Europe. The average increase in the UK was 12.1 per cent, closely followed by Italy (11.8 per cent) and Spain (11.1 per cent).

UK directors are also more likely than their European counterparts to pick up perks such as share options, company pensions, six-month notice periods and company cars. The survey shows that the pre-tax earnings of a board director of a £50 million turnover company in the UK are about £39,000.

## Road surface sales up 8%

SALES of road surfacing materials were 8 per cent higher during the third quarter than during the same period last year. The figures show that local and national governments are committed to their road building programmes, says the British Aggregate Construction Materials Industries federation. But ready-mixed concrete sales were down 10 per cent.

## Oliver fails to cut loss

LOSSES at Oliver Resources, the Dublin oil and gas company, were £199,000 (£181,000), from £198,000 during the six months to the end of April. The deficit was £178,000 in respect of Oliver's share of losses of two associated companies, North West Exploration and New Signet Resources. Losses per share were 0.5p (0.6p).

## Rentokil in talks

RENTOKIL Group, the pest control and property services group, is considering buying Wellcome's Calmic group of hygiene companies. In a joint statement, the companies said that if a deal was concluded, Rentokil would pay cash for the businesses out of group resources.

The Calmic businesses, which manufacture washroom hygiene equipment, operate in 22 countries and have an annual turnover of about £33.5 million. Wellcome, the pharmaceutical group, sold its human vaccine business last month and is reviewing its businesses after the arrival of John Robb as chief executive in July.

## Equipment firm up 17%

PRE-TAX profits at American Business Systems, the USM-listed equipment supplier that operates in the United States, were up 17 per cent to £4.65 million in the six months to end-September. Turnover rose from £40.3 million to £48.3 million. The interim dividend is up to 1p (0.8p), after earnings per share went up from 9.7p to 11.3p.

## Essex results at £532,000

DESPITE the gloom besetting many furniture makers, Essex Furniture, upholstered furniture manufacturer and retailer, lifted pre-tax profits from £499,000 to £532,000 in the year to end-June, the group's first year since it was floated on the USM in October 1989. Sales rose 11 per cent to £3.36 million. The final dividend is 1p, making a total of 2p.

## Hicking Pentecost up

PRE-TAX profits at Hicking Pentecost, the diversified clothing manufacturing to retail group, surged from £153,000 to £420,000 in the six months to end-September. Turnover stood at £9.81 million, against £11.1 million last time. The interim dividend is increased to 0.6p (0.5p). Earnings rose from 2.24p to 5.26p. Interest payments climbed from £273,000 to £394,000. The company said all divisions traded profitably in the first half and order books remained buoyant. The board remains optimistic for the rest of the trading year and the future. The shares rose 3p to 68p.

## Wyevale buys garden centre

WYEVALE Garden Centres, which raised £8.25 million via an underwritten rights issue in September, is paying £1 million for a new six-acre garden centre at Woodbridge, Suffolk. The centre, which is Wyevale's 25th outlet, will provide 19,000 sq ft of covered sales area. The garden centre is expected to begin trading next March.

## Gates quits contract hire

FRANK G. Gates, the east London Ford dealer, plans to sell his contract-hire business to Ford Motor Credit Company for about £6.89 million to reduce borrowings. Assets employed and the size of the contract business fluctuate and the group said the price could not be ascertained exactly. The sale should be completed this month.

## WORLD MARKETS

| Index         | Value  | Daily chg | Yearly chg | Daily chg | Yearly chg |
|---------------|--------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
| (£)           | (US\$) | (£)       | (US\$)     | (£)       | (US\$)     |
| The World     | 557.5  | 0.8       | -33.9      | 0.6       | -25.3      |
| (free)        | 106.5  | 0.8       | -33.9      | 0.6       | -25.3      |
| EAPE          | 973.0  | 0.7       | -37.5      | 0.3       | -32.7      |
| (free)        | 100.0  | 0.7       | -37.7      | 0.2       | -32.8      |
| Europe        | 594.4  | 0.9       | -22.3      | 0.6       | -19.6      |
| (free)        | 128.0  | 0.9       | -21.7      | 0.3       | -19.3      |
| North America | 304.9  | 0.5       | -20.6      | 0.5       | -10.8      |
| (free)        | 112.0  | 0.5       | -20.6      | 0.5       | -10.8      |
| Asia          | 157.9  | 1.1       | -20.1      | 0.4       | -14.7      |
| (free)        | 2136.8 | 0.6       | -46.1      | 0.1       | -40.7      |
| Pacific       | 3090.3 | 0.6       | -46.6      | 0.0       | -41.6      |
| Far East      | 255.9  | 0.8       | -32.1      | 0.8       | -16.2      |
| Australia     | 1307.0 | 1.9       | -12.1      | 1.3       | -6.2       |
| Belgium       | 724.3  | 0.7       | -26.4      | 0.2       | -23.1      |
| Canada        | 384.5  | 1.1       | -34.3      | 0.7       | -19.5      |
| Denmark       | 7146.8 | 0.9       | -43.6      | 0.1       | -38.9      |
| Finland       | 65.4   | 0.9       | -43.3      | 0.1       | -38.5      |
| (free)        | 67.1   | 0.5       | -41.6      | 0.4       | -37.7      |
| France        | 596.0  | 1.2       | -26.3      | 0.7       | -22.7      |
| Germany       | 698.2  | 2.0       | -24.4      | 1.3       | -19.4      |
| Hong Kong     | 1880.6 | 1.1       | -18.1      | 0.9       | 2.0        |
| Italy         | 259.7  | -0.1      | -32.6      | -0.7      | -27.8      |
| Japan         | 3248.2 | 0.5       | -47.3      | 0.0       | -42.6      |
| Netherlands   | 725.0  | 1.5       | -23.3      | 1.0       | -16.2      |
| New Zealand   | 61.0   | -0.2      | -35.0      | -0.2      | -35.0      |
| Norway        | 1169.2 | 0.2       | -13.4      | -0.4      | -7.7       |
| (free)        | 205.7  | 0.1       | -11.9      | -0.5      | -5.1       |
| Singapore     | 1342.4 | 0.6       | -32.7      | 0.3       | -26.4      |
| Spain         | 169.4  | 1.4       | -28.4      | 1.0       | -25.4      |
| Sweden        | 1153.1 | 1.8       | -34.3      | 1.3       | -28.3      |
| (free)        | 171.8  | 1.9       | -29.0      | 1.3       | -22.7      |
| Switzerland   | 722.7  | 1.2       | -23.0      | 1.2       | -21.9      |
| (free)        | 110.4  | 1.4       | -20.8      | 1.2       | -21.9      |
| UK            | 628.1  | 0.4       | -16.7      | 0.3       | -15.7      |
| USA           | 358.0  | 0.9       | -25.9      | 0.6       | -9.9       |

Not local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

## ALPHA STOCKS

| Vol '000        | Vol '000      | Vol '000         | Vol '000        |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| ADT 989         | CU 275        | Lorito 1,110     | Sebe 37         |
| Abbey Nat 514   | Cookson 332   | Lucas 357        | Shugh 751       |
| Admiral 958     | Courtside 98  | Manganese 404    | Smith & N 2,250 |
| Amrad 792       | Deagay 501    | MAS 545          | SK Beach 3,350  |
| Anglian 462     | Duxon 231     | Maywell Cn 111   | Do Ute 781      |
| Anglo 655       | EC 19         | Mid Group 3,550  | Smith W 354     |
| ASDA 1,485      | Enterprise 56 | MEPC 1,284       | Smith Ind 15    |
| AB Foods 250    | Farrand 925   | Midland 995      | STC 4,914       |
| Avon 491        | PA 491        | Nat West 122     | Stan Chari 305  |
| BAT 458         | Ph 975        | Nat 975          | Stanora 305     |
| BET 4,889       | San Acc 289   | Nat Food 1,872   | Sun Africa 328  |
| BAT 4,889       | SEC 2,887     | Nat 1,872        | Sun Life 1      |
| BAT 458         | Sho 1,131     | Pension 107      | T 1             |
| Batavia 7,579   | Shyward 229   | Pfizer 685       | T Group 65      |
| Bears 738       | Grassano 28   | Poly Pack 105    | Tarmac 1,029    |
| Bears 105       | Scars 105     | Prudential 2,175 | Tate & Lyle 525 |
| Barrat Ind 289  | CUS A 184     | Rapi 45,471      | Thorn Wood 524  |
| BBC 38          | GRE 1,124     | Rail Tele 3,829  | TSB 643         |
| Bio Cete 126    | Sho 126       | Ric Hovis 67     | Unico 1,823     |
| BOC 2,275       | Guinness 853  | Rink 115         | Thorn E 305     |
| Bos 1,028       | Herm A 24     | RAC 241          | Thorn E 305     |
| BPS 215         | Hanson 7,055  | Reckitt 358      | Triflex 589     |
| Br Lard 227     | Heddon 2,891  | RITZ 2,741       | Unilever 687    |
| Br Lard 2,875   | Perle 38      | Royale 60        | Unilever 687    |
| Br Steel 17,845 | ICI 1,112     | Rothmans 17      | Unilever 687    |
| Br Telex 2,895  | Indochina 374 | Royal Ind 1,435  | Unilever 687    |
| Bridgford 411   | Indochina 374 | Royal Ind 1,435  | Unilever 687    |
| Burns 2,789     | Lactaid 918   | Sainsbury 681    | Unilever 687    |
| Cable 4,555     | Lactaid 918   | Sainsbury 681    | Unilever 687    |
| Cable 1,258     | Lactaid 918   | Sainsbury 681    | Unilever 687    |
| Canal 1,258     | Lactaid 918   | Sainsbury 681    | Unilever 687    |
| Canal 1,258     | Lactaid 918   | Sainsbury 681    | Unilever 687    |
| Canal 1,258     | Lactaid 918   | Sainsbury 681    | Unilever 687    |
| Canal 1,258     | Lactaid 918   | Sainsbury 681    | Unilever 687    |



It has been a rough time for medium sized British electronics companies. Plessey and STC have been forced to bow to greater financial muscle and Ferranti has been crippled by the International Signal fiasco. Now Racal Telecom is to lose the protection of its twin, Racal Electronics, whose 80 per cent shareholding made a direct bid impossible. With those shares coming on to the market via the demerger plan revealed yesterday, the Vodafone group's days of independence may be strictly numbered.

While the detail of Sir Ernest Harrison's buyout plans are deeply unclear, he deserves credit for what must have been a difficult change of heart.

Sir Ernest persuaded the City to throw out a plan for a complete demerger of Racal Telecom. Hardly two years later he is proposing exactly the thing so forcibly argued by Racal's American shareholder Millicom group and its adviser, County NatWest.

Sir Ernest was correct in one respect, that even a partial demerger would unlock the true

value of the booming Vodafone business for Racal shareholders. So it has proved, with Racal Electronics shares soaring from 130p to a peak of 282p as American investors warmed to the potential of the cellular interests.

His other judgment was that the scarcity value arising from the flotation of just 20 per cent of Racal Telecom would avoid an investment trust discount in the valuation of Racal Electronics. This has not been borne out by events. Racal Electronics group has been valued at times below the worth of its stake in Racal Telecom. Sir Ernest has now moved to rectify matters in a radical manner.

The cost may well be that both Racal Chubb and Racal Telecom find their way into the arms of overseas predators. The Vodafone group is an especially valuable property, at the leading edge of cellular technology and with pan European cellular

## Vodafone next for an overseas caller

### COMMENT

telephony just a few years away. The decision is impeccable in terms of enhancing shareholder values, but in terms of the national interest it is much less clear.

### Tough steel

There was little comfort for Scotland yesterday in the declaration from Sir Robert Scholey, the British Steel chairman, that "we are rolling our sleeves up for improving profitability in this company."

Many of the company's least profitable works are located in the Central Lowlands. As the slump in UK demand deepens, and British Steel's state-controlled European rivals turn to Britain in an effort to maintain their sales volumes, the battle to

cut costs is going to get tough.

It will need to. For the first time in many years, British Steel's cost structure is sliding the wrong way. Continental rivals might envy British Steel's performance. But Sir Robert is prepared to disregard the social consequences of Scottish closures and assert his freedom to manage in the best interests of his company as a whole.

Ultimately, that should mean cheaper steel. Without it, European car makers and refrigerator manufacturers will never be able to resist the invasion of Japanese and Korean products.

It has become fashionable to think that Sir Robert's empire is just another company. It is not. Steelmaking is a basic industry and British Steel is the overwhelming bulk of what is left of it in Britain. Sir Robert's success —

### ANC has key

The investment case for considering the emerging and fast changing South Africa is compelling.

The country boasts a host of natural resources, a variety of established manufacturing industries, the medium of English in which British businessmen can communicate, and is the bridgehead into the rest of Southern Africa.

The reality of 1990 is that most South Africans recognise the need for, and are working towards, change. Yesterday's one-day London seminar hosted by the broker Smith New Court is likely to be the first of many

investment think-tanks to make overseas investors sit up and take note.

But the question is not so much how to attract old faithful hands to plough more money into South Africa. Nor so much how to woo back those who for moral and other reasons disinvested from South Africa during the Eighties when apartheid was at its height. The question is how to convince the new generation of investors that their returns will be real, that their investments will be safe, and that they can invest in the country without any qualms.

To date, the SA government (exemplified by economic reforms) and SA business (exemplified by improved work practices and improved opportunities) have made initial, albeit cautious, moves.

If South Africa is not to lose out to the lure of investment opportunities in an emerging Eastern Europe, then it now needs the influential ANC to play a more definitive and encouraging role in the process of attracting badly needed foreign capital.

AMERICA'S Days Inn motel chain recently launched a commercial for a "beat-the-bad-times" rate, offering a 20 per cent discount on rooms. The cover of *Newsweek* magazine this month showed a besuited man speared by a pencil and a redundancy notice under the headline: "How safe is your job?"

Welcome to the world's largest economy in the grip of recession fears. The gloom has darkened further since Michael Boskin, President Bush's top economic adviser, last week came close to saying the American economy was starting its tenth recession since the second world war. "At best it is in a lull," he said.

So far, the country's GNP has proved itself resilient, showing growth even in the third quarter of this year, albeit at a slower rate than over the past two years. Amid signs that Americans are batten down the hatches by delaying home improvements and big purchases, manufacturers are confident that exports, especially to Europe, will rescue the economy if it starts to sink.

For their part, Bush Administration officials and borrowers are hopeful that Federal Reserve policy-makers will decide today to trim short-term interest rates when they meet in closed session to review credit policies. The financial columns of *America's* economic publications suggest Fed officials have grown more pessimistic about the economy this month, after a government report that the private sector shed 68,000 jobs in October while unemployment insurance claims increased sharply.

For months, Alan Greenspan, the Fed's cautious chairman, has said in public he sees no hard evidence from economic statistics that a recession is looming, but many economists expect the latest data to have changed his mind. The Federal Open Market Committee, which comprises the central bank's five governors and six district presidents, is expected soon to shave a quarter of a point off its federal funds target rate to 7.5 per cent. A cut would be

## US hopes for rate cut as recession fears grow



Help for dollar: Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman

only the third this year. In June, Mr Greenspan trimmed a quarter of a point in response to tighter bank lending standards. Last month, he nudged the rate down by the same amount after Congress approved a long-awaited federal budget deficit-cutting deal.

Mr Greenspan's action is expected to be judicious in spite of pressure from the White House for lower interest rates. One of his goals is

help soften any future blow to growth.

Jerry Jasinoski, the association's president, said: "Export orders have held up better than domestic demand." He estimated that exports had accounted for more than one-third of American economic growth since 1986 and more than four-fifths of overall growth this year. The European Community, the country's biggest trading partner, alone bought more than \$80 billion of American goods last year, compared with about \$30 billion in 1985.

Despite increasing European integration in the run-up to 1992, the saying "when Wall Street sneezes, Europe catches cold" still holds true. Europe's exports to America are already suffering as the market of the Eighties for goods such as BMWs, Belgian chocolate truffles and French designer clothes shrinks to fit the sharply cut workforces of Wall Street and other financial centres. A Canadian recession adds to the strain.

Although some American economists already think the country's longest peacetime expansion is over, a survey of 55 leading economists last week was surprisingly optimistic. While 80 per cent of them expected GNP to show negative growth before the end of the year, 75 per cent of them forecast a recession would last no longer than six to nine months.

Food companies are still counting on sharply higher sales of dried soups, tinned foods and snacks, however, as Americans weather the storm by eating in more. Even President Bush appears ruffled.

Bothered by talk that the economy will be the key issue in his 1992 re-election campaign and still fending off criticism for his "no new taxes" reversal, he spent last weekend at Camp David with his economic advisers, amid fears that the new budget package is inadequate to ward off a recession. Before his departure, he said: "We're in some tough times now."

SUSAN ELLICOTT  
Washington

## Amersham ends Amerlite agony

AMERSHAM International, by agreeing to sell Amerlite to Kodak, is belatedly bowing to the inevitable.

The company was struck by the old British weakness of refusing to concede that it lacked the financial muscle to market a prize-winning idea successfully. It has suffered considerable pain in coming to terms with its fate.

It is typical of Amersham that the disposal of the jewel in its crown should take place over two years, giving the company time to restructure without rocking the boat too abruptly.

Kodak is undoubtedly better placed to develop Amerlite, boasting the required financial resources and an established range of clinical chemistry analysers to make a success of Amerlite.

The terms appear satisfactory to both sides — a multiple of 24 times operating profit gives Kodak technology and a customer base it would take several years to develop, while Amersham is relieved of a business that has been a huge drain on resources and that was by no means certain to come good.

Despite Amersham's 18 per

cent increase in taxable profits to £7.2 million for the six months to the end of September, the uncertain outlook for industrial products prompted analysts to trim back forecasts by £2.5 million for the current year to £21.5 million, implying earnings of 23.3p a share.

At 277p, the shares are on a prospective multiple of almost 12, which is not cheap.

### BET

BET pushed itself as a recession-resistant business services stock, but has failed to deliver, mainly because its timing was awry. Having booked home improvements businesses as non-core some time ago, BET happily rode the cycle up but found that when they were put up for sale to pay for Hestair, buyers did not fancy the downturn.

Operating profits were up £18 million (12 per cent) to £170 million, including £10 million from Hestair but £13 million less from the non-core businesses. Interest charges nearly trebled to £38 million,

however, and interest cover fell from 3.6 to 4.6 times.

Quick sales of Thames and Anglian Home Improvements would cut borrowings, which jumped £180 million to £617 million in six months, but not help short-term profits, which are likely to fall more steeply in the second half.

The support services business has fared well on earnings so far, but late payment has worsened the cash drain, forcing a freeze on capital spending and adding to instant disillusion with management.

That is reflected in the share rating. At 166p, BET would sell at 6.6 times earnings on a fall in full-year profits from £322 million to about £300 million and yield a prospective 11 per cent. A bargain if things get no worse, though the City may not bet on that.

### BOC Group

BOC Group has run out of steam. If the market did not know it before, Richard Giordano's decision to restrict next

year's dividend — BOC traditionally forecasts its dividends a year ahead — has left no room for doubt.

Gas orders around the world are flattening out, and gas profits, which struggled to top £300 million in the year to September, against £278 million before, will be constrained again this year.

The bigger disappointment, however, remains the health-care operation, of which so much was expected. Glaxo in the United States ran up an operating loss as it failed to cope with stringent cutbacks undertaken by Medicare, the health-insurance programme. Meanwhile the flotation plan may not exactly be on a back-burner yet, but appears to be on a very low heat.

Given the flat demand internationally, BOC will do well to match these latest figures in the current year, when a higher prospective tax charge could trim earnings per share by 1p to 50.3p. This explains the caution that has brought a 20.4p dividend forecast, against the expected 21p.

At 462p, 8p lower on the day, and nine times earnings, BOC shares are up with the market, and deserve no more.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Bidding on the Foodsie index

THE City's legendary ability to make a market in just about anything will be put to the test this month at the launch of one of Britain's most unusual new issues. Nearly 120 stock-brokers will attend the Cafe Pelican Du Sud in Hays Galleria, London, on November 29 to bid for their own meals. The evening is masterminded by Brian "Mr USM" Winterlood and John East, chief executive of Guidehouse Securities. The cafe will be turned into a version of the stock exchange floor, with jobbers making a market in food, a stock index — the Foodsie — will record the prices and a ticker tape will carry the latest company news. "There might be a mad-cow scare, or sudden shortage of coffee beans," says one insider, who adds that all profits will go to the Square Mile Charitable Trust and Remedi, a medical research charity. Some of the stars of *Capital City*, the television programme, will be present. Tickets cost £15, but those hoping to attend will have to move quickly, for the price of remaining tickets is rising fast, and the offer is expected to be many times oversubscribed.

### Betting on bookies

GEORGE Walker, the former pugilist who is fending off creditors, may have found an American solution to his

company's cash problems. William Hill, Brent Walker's bookmaking subsidiary, is pitching for a group of betting shops in Connecticut, which it hopes will give it an opening into the lucrative American market. The 15 shops, which have a total £100 million turnover a year, offer betting on the New York circuit. A chain of shops of similar size in Britain would turn over little more than £7.5 million a year. "Connecticut is one of the few states not to have a racetrack," says John Brown, managing director of William Hill. "This would give us a solid base on which to build in the future." Peter Greene, former managing director of Mecca, the betting shop chain, which was bought by Brent Walker in December last year, recently paid up to \$80 million for the Philadelphia Park racetrack.



"Don't know what's going on at Racal — can't get through"

SIGN spotted in Mrs Thatcher's Finchley constituency: "No woman is an island" — Mrs John Donne.

### All in a name

THE average accountant is likely to be named either David Smith or Susan Patel, according to a survey of budding graduates. Confirming their love of facts and continuity, the names John and Alison are not far behind in the popularity stakes. The survey of 4,662 accountants by Harrison Willis, the financial recruitment consultant, found that Patel and Smith were the two most popular surnames. Parents who name their sons David, John or Michael may be unwittingly marking them for a career as an accountant. After Susan and Alison, the most popular female names are Anne and Sarah. Coopers Deloitte, the largest firm, lists 49 Smiths in its directory. The review also revealed some interesting choice of partners. Thriving practices included that of a Mr Benson and a Mr Hedges, as well as Mr Jack and Mr Daniels.

### Speer-head design

BRITISH companies hoping to invest in east Germany may find that their rivals from west Germany have beaten them to it. In the short time since unification, several of the big names in German business have moved back to their former headquarters in the former Communist region. Architects are said to be

queuing up to take part in the rebuilding of Berlin. They include Albert Speer — son and namesake of the chief architect to, and subsequently arms industry supremo of, Hitler's Third Reich — who has revealed a desire to take part in the rebuilding. Despite his enthusiasm, he is likely to enjoy few of his father's privileges, as planning contracts will almost certainly be put out to tender.

### Wine bar

BAREND du Plessis, South Africa's minister of finance, Dr Chris Stals, governor of the Reserve Bank of South Africa, and Peter Walker, former British cabinet minister, had better luck getting into Claridge's Hotel yesterday for Smith New Court's seminar on investment in a post-apartheid South Africa than did cases of South African wines, which the hosts intended to serve at lunch. One of the people attending was told that Smith New Court had to supply the South African wines Klein Constantia Sauvignon Blanc, 1988, and Fleur du Cabernet Sauvignon, 1983, because "Claridge's was a bit stuffy and would have preferred that South African wines were not served at functions". Mr Walker, meanwhile, said: "I am more than happy to help South Africa's balance of payments by drinking her excellent wines whenever SA needs help."

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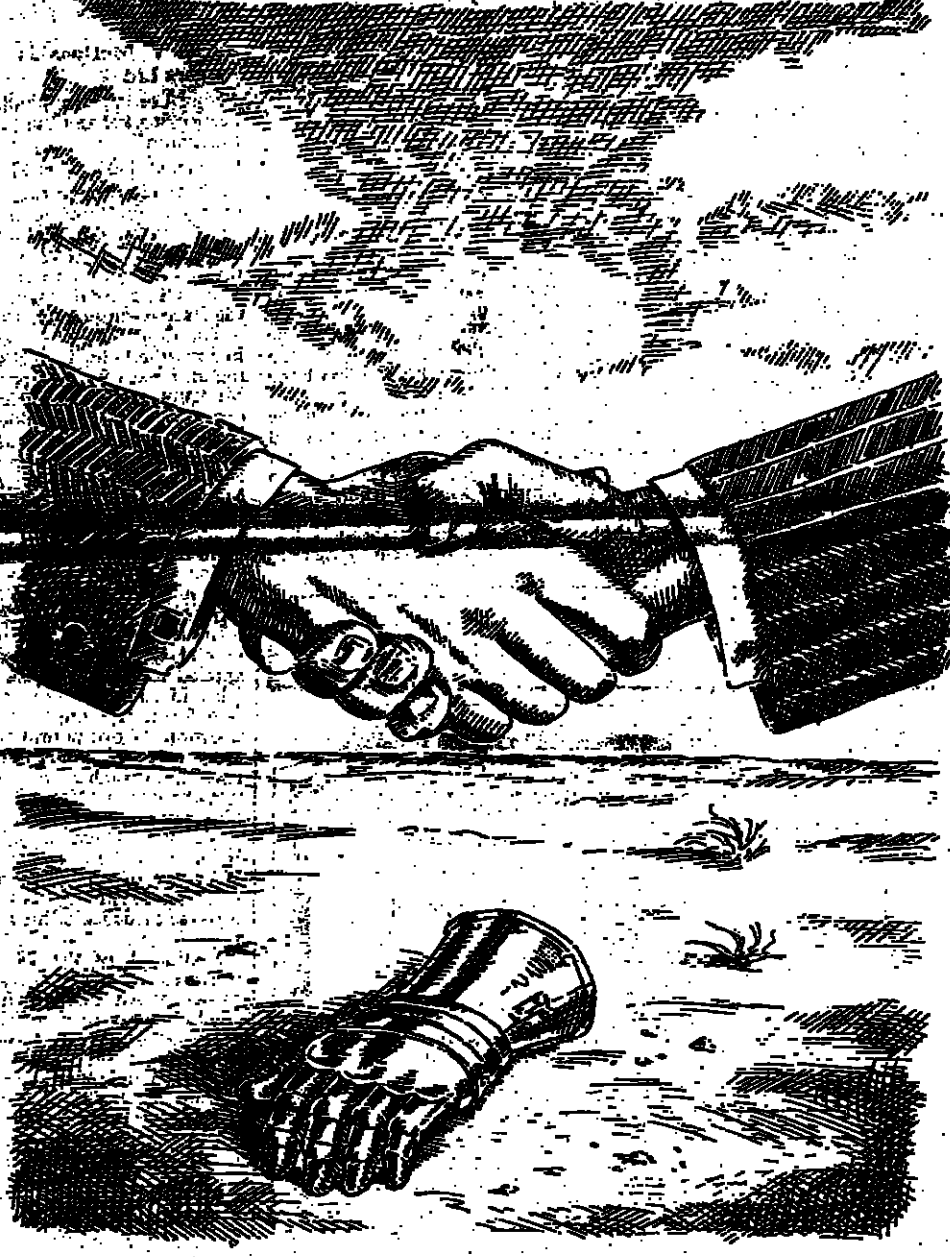
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The government is to defer legislation on the Law Commission's new divorce proposals. In one sense that is unfortunate. We have had the car before the horse far too long.

We need a system in which issues involving children and money come first and then divorce follows; in which spouses do not have to indulge in gratuitously damaging and inflammatory slanging matches as the price of divorce, and in which there is time for effective conciliation.

But, in another sense, delay will prove beneficial, so long as the time is used to develop proposals for vital reform of the principles governing the re-allocation of property and income when married couples separate.

These are touched on by the Law Commission's proposals only in the sense that financial decisions will come sooner rather than later. Those decisions will, however, depend still on the same old existing guidelines and utterly imprecise principles.

Making them may become even more costly and contentious if the white paper, *Children Come First*, is implemented. The paper implies that provision for children, calculated to precise formulas, will somehow be slotted within the overall impression of the principles governing spouses.

Nobody should underestimate the cost, delay and misery that flows from the absence of specific guidelines for the calculation of maintenance and the sharing of assets.

Lacking such guidelines, lawyers dealing with matrimonial financial problems have to invent their own. That goes as much for

# Divorce without anger



**The government should seize the opportunity to copy the Scottish divorce property code, which spares most spouses great cost and additional misery, argues David Green**



people advising clients what their rights or liabilities may be, as it does for judges and others who decide what they shall be. Their principles may flow from previous case law, although judges repeatedly insist that there are no rules and that each case must be decided on its own; but that is about all.

Thus no two lawyers are likely to come up with even the same starting figures, even when they are considering data which are

identical. Costs then race away as spouses' lawyers try to negotiate the gaps between their different starting positions. If they fail and the courts have to decide, costs fly through the roof. Even then, spouses have the benefit only of a different set of principles favoured by whoever decides their case.

Nobody can demonstrate how the results have been conjured. Both parties are likely to end up feeling they have been robbed—as much by the decision as by its

cost. That resentment fuels further any that already exists, and adds to the long-term sense of injury with which couples and children might, anyway, have to contend. We could end all this in cases involving property and assets merely by adopting the code in force in Scotland since the Family Law (Scotland) Act 1985.

That act distinguishes between two categories of property. Assets which the spouses owned before they came together, which they

accumulated after they separated, or acquired by gift or inheritance from their family, remain theirs and are not shared. Income arising out of such separate property, perhaps its equivalent in the use of a house if it includes a house, may benefit a supported spouse or children as part of maintenance. But the assets themselves are not divisible.

Everything else (and that includes a house and its contents bought for the marriage) is divisible. Scottish law does not shrink from saying that normally it should be shared 50/50. So the

Scottish system allows spouses a fair share of property accumulated during cohabitation that derives from their joint endeavour, whatever the measurable proportion of their contribution, but excludes everything else.

Everybody knows where they are and no one has to pay a small fortune to find out. Contrast this with the English

system. Everything goes into the melting pot. Someone who remarries after divorce or the death of a previous partner may find the whole substance of their previous life immediately hostage to the failure of a subsequent marriage.

Families who thought to endow their own children and grand-children may live to see that endowment pass to other families or children to which they are total strangers. The class of people whose property is unwarrantably exposed by existing English law extends far beyond heretics vulnerable to gold diggers.

Marriage itself becomes a casualty when it reads as a charter for the automatic enrichment of one spouse by the family or the other partner, still less that spouse's future partners and children.

The Scottish divorce property code spares most spouses with assets both cost and misery. We in England and Wales need only to follow Scotland. Certainly the law can hope to define what may be only the generality of cases. But when, as now, it fails to do even that, the injustice of random judgments and the cost of arguing for them becomes universal.

Cost is significant. In 1987-8, the Legal Aid Fund paid a net \$65 million for matrimonial work. Spouses who had to pay their own costs paid a lot more. Much of that money was spent resolving financial issues; and much of that merely in deciding who should have what.

The author was a member of the Law Society Family Law Committee from 1967 to 1988 and is author of *Splitting Up: a guide to separation and divorce* (Kogan Page, 1988).

## Chancery Division

## Law Report November 13 1990

## Court of Appeal

### Sums paid by subsidiary are yearly interest

**Minsham Properties Ltd v Price (Inspector of Taxes) Lysville Ltd v Same**  
Before Mr Justice Vinelott  
[Judgment October 26]

Accrued sums payable by a subsidiary company to its parent company on a commercial loan was yearly interest and as such precluded by section 251(2) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 from being deducted in computing corporation tax liability.

Moreover, the computerised book entries transferring those sums from the subsidiary's records of account to the parent company's accounts did not constitute a charge on income "paid" by the subsidiary so as to permit deduction under section 248 of the Act.

Mr Justice Vinelott so held in the Chancery Division in dismissing appeals by Minsham Properties Ltd and Lysville Ltd from the decision by a special commissioner of appeals by

those companies against corporation tax assessments. Minsham, a property company, had an overdraft at Barclays Bank. In June 1983 its parent company, SBA Ltd, paid £180,000 and £90,000 to the bank to extinguish that debt.

There was no written agreement between SBA Ltd and Minsham as to the terms of that £270,000 loan but it was the policy of SBA Ltd, a charitable company, to charge interest on loans at commercial rates.

In September 1983 the book-keeping of both companies was computerised but not until 1986 were computer entries made crediting SBA Ltd with appropriate amounts of interest on those loans for the accounting periods to September 1983, 1984 and 1985.

In Minsham's records of account for those periods the interest payable to SBA Ltd was described as "increase in SBA loan" and "interest to SBA". Mr Andrew Park, QC and Mr

David Unwin for the taxpayer companies, Mr Alan Moses, QC, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE VINELOTT said that the taxpayer companies' first claim was that the moneys credited to SBA Ltd as interest payable on the loan to Minsham was not yearly interest but was commonly referred to as short interest and accordingly was deductible for tax purposes as it accrued during each of the periods of account. The second claim was that the interest was paid by Minsham in 1986 for the purposes of section 248(1) of the 1970 Act. If it was so paid, then even if the interest was yearly interest it was deductible as a charge on Minsham's income for the period to September 1986.

The commissioner described the features of the loan and concluded that it was a long-term commitment by SBA Ltd in much the same way as its investment in the shares of Minsham. It could, the commis-

sioner held, be a short-term loan but he went on to infer and find as a fact that it was not: it was yearly interest.

That inference drawn by the commissioner was one that he was fully entitled to draw and indeed was the only inference which he could properly have drawn.

The second question was the yearly interest "paid" by Minsham? The commissioner had an agreed statement of facts and the relevant accounts. The question for him was whether the increase in the SBA Ltd loan shown in Minsham's and SBA Ltd's accounts, read together with the entry in Minsham's journal, constituted payment during 1985-6 of interest for the period to September 1983 and 1984 by Minsham to SBA Ltd.

No doubt a book entry could constitute payment, see *Spitta v Ellis* (1827) 4 Bing 112; *Inland Revenue Commissioners v Dorchester* (1924) 4 TC 623 and *Gairforth v Newnham Stainless Ltd* (1979) 1 WLR 4091.

But that was not always the case. If, for instance, under the terms of the loan the creditor had the right to add arrears of interest to principal an entry in the books showing that interest had been so added would not amount to payment of the interest. That was decided by the House of Lords in *Paton v Inland Revenue Commissioners* (1938) AC 341.

Mr Park sought to distinguish *Paton* on the ground that there the entry adding the accrued interest to principal was an entry in the books of the lender. Here, it was said, the interest was credited to the loan account in the books of both the borrower and the lender.

However, it was plain on the facts of the instant case that all that had happened was that accrued interest was added to principal with the result that it was compounded and thereafter bore interest. The appeal failed. Solicitors: *Becher & Co*; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

### Evidence of right to work demand was not bias

**Dhant v McDonalds Hamburgers Ltd**  
Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Stoughton  
[Judgment November 8]

An employer requesting an Indian job applicant to produce evidence of his right to work in the United Kingdom was not thereby discriminating against him on the ground of race under the Race Relations Act 1976.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the applicant, Mr Kulwinder Dhant, from the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Wood, Mr S. M. Springer and Mr R. M. Young) (77 *Times* May 17, 1988; 1988 *CLR* 591) rejecting his complaint of unlawful discrimination against the employers, McDonalds Hamburgers Ltd.

The applicant, who was of Indian nationality, was under the Immigration Act 1971 entitled to live and work in the United Kingdom. In 1985 he applied to the employer for a job and completed an application form, replying "yes" to a question "Work permit: If you are not a British citizen or from the EC, do you have a permit to work in the UK? (Yes/No). If yes, please provide evidence."

He was given a job but because of a manager's apparent ignorance of immigration laws was dismissed for failing to provide evidence of his right to work.

Section 1 of the 1976 Act provides: "(1) A person discriminates against another in any circumstances relevant for the purposes of any provision of this Act if— (a) on racial grounds he treats that other less favourably than he treats or would treat other persons..."

Section 3 provides: "(4) A comparison of the case of a person of a particular racial group with that of a person not of that group under section 1(1) must be such that the relevant circumstances in the one case are the same, or not materially different, in the other."

Mr Nicholas Blake for the

applicant, Mr W. Robert Griffiths for the employer.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL, in a reserved judgment, said that the applicant's main submission was that his treatment as an Indian had to be compared with that afforded to all other applicants including British citizens or EC nationals and the only relevant circumstance for the purpose of section 3(4) was that both he and hypothetical comparators would be young men applying for a job.

On such comparison, he said, the requirement to produce a work permit was discriminatory on the ground of nationality. Alternatively, he argued, if the comparison was to be made with those who could work without a permit, as he could, he should be treated as if he were a British citizen, even though it might be permissible to discriminate in some way against others.

For the employer, it was argued that by requiring production of work permits it was attempting to comply with the system of controls embodied in the Immigration Act 1971. It was merely drawing a distinction, recognised by Parliament, between those not requiring a permit and those who did.

The House of Lords decision concerning the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 in *James v Eastleigh Borough Council* (7 *Times* June 15, 1990; 1990 *3 WLR* 55) was relevant. The council there had stipulated that to be eligible for free admission to a swimming pool the entrant had to have reached pensionable age.

Lord Bridge of Harwich regarded the test of "pensionable age" as no more than a convenient shorthand expression which, in relation to the age of 60 in a woman and the age of 65 in a man, the conclusion was that the council's discrimination against a man was "on the ground of his sex".

The position, however, might have been different had Parliament enacted that concessions by local authorities on the ground of age should depend

on the attainment of pensionable age.

How did that decision apply to the present case? It was important to underline that the alleged discrimination related to the applicant's right to work. It was therefore necessary to consider whether there was a distinction relating to the right to obtain employment in the United Kingdom that Parliament recognised between British citizens and EC nationals on the one hand and nationals of other states on the other.

Clearly there was such a distinction which Parliament sought to enforce by primary and secondary legislation.

Although an employer was not obliged to ensure that a person was free to do so, it had a general responsibility to ensure that those who worked in its business comply with the law.

The distinction drawn on the employer's printed form between British citizens and EC nationals and other applicants did not constitute unlawful discrimination. In the case of someone seeking work, his nationality was a relevant circumstance because Parliament recognised and sought to enforce by reference to nationality a general division between those who by reason of their nationality were free to work and those who required permission.

It should be added that it was important that employers should ensure that their managers had sufficient knowledge of the system of immigration control and the stamps which were used to avoid causing unnecessary offence.

The Race Relations Act was a most important piece of legislation and it was necessary that adequate training should be given to those who had to comply with its provisions on a day-to-day basis.

Justice Stoughton gave concurring judgments. Solicitors: Miss Dhira Wickramanayake, Hounslow; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

### Criticised matrimonial orders might still be justified

**Clifton v Clifton**  
Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Ewbank  
[Judgment October 26]

On dissolution of a marriage, circumstances might still justify the making, by way of ancillary relief, of a *Mesher* order (*Mesher v Mesher* (1982) 1 All ER 126) whereby sale of the matrimonial home was postponed until the youngest child of the marriage attained a specified age, notwithstanding judicial criticism which that order had attracted.

A *Martin* order (*Martin (R. H.) v Martin (D.)* (1978) Fam 12), postponing the sale until the wife's death, remarriage or cohabitation with another man, could only be said to offend against the principle of the clean break in the most extended sense of that term.

The Court of Appeal so said when allowing an appeal by a husband from an order made on July 11, 1989 by Judge Arthur at Birkhead County Court, whereby he ordered the husband to transfer to the wife his entire interest in the matrimonial home. The Court of Appeal substituted a *Martin* order which subjected the matrimonial home to a charge in favour of the husband.

Mr Nicholas Mostyn for the husband; Mr Kevin Reade for the wife.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that the husband had asked the judge for a *Martin* order on terms that he should have one third of the proceeds of sale should the wife remarry or cohabit. Otherwise she would be entitled to live in the matrimonial home for the rest of her life.

The wife had asked for a clean break. It had been said on her behalf that she had a genuine fear of perpetual supervision by the husband for the purpose of establishing cohabitation.

The principle of the clean break had, of course, been well established long before the Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984 but was now enshrined by that Act in section 25A(1) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.

There was perhaps a danger in referring to it as a "principle", since it might lead courts to strive for a clean break, regardless of all other considerations. Section 25A required the court to consider the appropriateness of a clean break, neither more nor less.

Where the judge had gone wrong was in refusing to make a *Martin* order. That was what the wife had originally been content to accept. It was also what the husband had asked for.

Why then had the judge not made a *Martin* order? It could not surely have been because a *Martin* order would offend against the principle of the clean break.

A charge which did not take effect until death or remarriage could only be said to offend against the principle of the clean break in the most extended sense of that term.

Not to have made a *Martin* order was therefore in his Lordship's opinion manifestly unfair to the husband. It had deprived him of any share in the sole capital asset of the marriage, without any sufficient corresponding benefit to the wife.

Mr Mostyn asked the court to consider making a *Mesher* order so that the charge would become effective on the daughter attain-

ing the age of 18 or some other age. In *Mortimer v Mortimer* (1986) 2 FLR 315, 319 Lord Justice Parker had said of that order: "It has been criticised since its birth; it is an order which is likely to produce harsh and unsatisfactory results. For my part, I have no doubt that criticism. If it has not got rid of it, it will at least ensure that it is no longer regarded as the 'bible'."

It seemed to his Lordship with respect that Lord Justice Parker, who there was still case, where, if only by way of exception, the *Mesher* order provided the best solution.

Such a case might be where the family assets were ample sufficient to provide both parties with a roof over their heads if the matrimonial home were sold, but nevertheless the interests of the children required that they remained in the matrimonial home.

In such a case it might be just and sensible to postpone the sale until the children had left home, since, *ex hypothesi*, the proceeds of sale would then be sufficient to enable the wife to re-house herself.

But where there was doubt as to the wife's ability to re-house herself, on the charge taking effect, then a *Mesher* order should not be made. That was the position in the instant case.

Mr Justice Ewbank delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Miss Roberta Tish for Robinsons, Liverpool; Belmont & Lowe for DP Roberts Hughes & Denny, Birkhead.

**Correction**  
In R v C (7 *Times* November 9) counsel for the appellant was instructed by Powell & Spencer, Kilburn.

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The firm plans to continue its growth by significant investment in two branch offices in the Northern Home Counties. As a result we are interested to identify and recruit two teams of lawyers in respect of each branch. It is anticipated that the incoming Heads of Department will be involved in this process.

**HEADS OF DEPARTMENT**  
(Commercial Partner Deputies)

A wide range of Company/Commercial skills are required with significant experience of acquisitions, disposals, MBO's, joint ventures, company restructurings, insolvency and insolvency property. The successful candidate(s) will be commercially orientated and likely to have an existing client base to be broadened and developed.

**COMMERCIAL SOLICITORS**  
Candidates will have gained post qualification experience in a variety of Company/Commercial matters. The positions will appeal to ambitious outgoing candidates seeking a career move to pursue their specialisation. Candidates should combine self initiative with a strong outgoing personality.

We will be holding confidential interviews at the following venues from 12 noon to 7.30pm. Alternative interview times may also be arranged to suit.  
20th November, Room 165, Crest Hotel, Donsdale Road, Luton.  
21st November, Board Room 16, Northampton Mount House, Silver Street, Northampton.  
23rd November, Room J, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London.

All approaches can be handled on an anonymous basis if preferred and a preliminary conversation could also be arranged with a Senior Partner of the firm.

For further information, please contact either TERRY ROSE on Aylesbury (0296) 293040 or Daniel Bates Partnership Ltd, 9 Prebendal Court, Oxford Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP19 8EX; or JO BYCOTT on Northampton (0462) 483321 at Daniels Bates Partnership Ltd, 11A St. Andrew's, Northampton NN1 2BY, quoting ref: 90A/478/7. YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST OF CONFIDENCE.

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## LONDON LAW APPOINTMENTS

**PRIVATE CLIENT to £50,000+**  
A prominent West End firm is seeking a senior Private Client Solicitor to join an established department, and be involved in a wide range of matters which will include tax planning and off-shore fund work. It is envisaged that the successful candidate will become a Partner with the practice after a short period. If this is the career opportunity you seek please call John Chapman on 071-497-1112.

**JAPANESE CLIENTS £ EXC**  
Our client, a reputable and leading City firm, has an urgent need for a first class lawyer with an adept command of spoken and written Japanese. The successful candidate will be a Japanese person of the firm, you will handle a burgeoning range of commercial matters on behalf of an expanding clientele. With a reputation of one year ago, a strong outgoing personality and the ability to communicate with counterparts clients, the successful candidate will in return be rewarded with a generous salary package, outstanding career prospects and the opportunity to attain both, within a dynamic and friendly environment. Please call Sarah Kaye on 071-497-1112 for details.

**INSOLVENCY £40,000 - £50,000**  
One of the leading firms in the City requires a Solicitor with between 3 & 5 years' experience to handle post-contestatory insolvency matters. The position is situated in a small specialist team within the banking and finance department. This is an excellent opportunity to join an expanding department. Please call John Stokes on 071-497-1112 for further details.

**ASSET FINANCE to £55,000**  
Our client, a prestigious commercial City firm, accommodates a team of lawyers specialising in the exciting field of ship/aircraft finance. A need has arisen for a further solicitor with a minimum of 3 years relevant City experience and a strong academic background. To handle a variety of high quality project finance and asset leasing matters. Rewards shall include a generous salary package, outstanding career prospects and the opportunity to attain both, within a dynamic and friendly environment. Please call Sarah Kaye on 071-497-1112 for details.

Details of applicants are sent to the relevant division of our client.

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Telephone 071-497-1112  
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A science film made by ten year old children because it shows mating.

Mark Philips and Princess Anne third wedding anniversary just howaddywaddy release their the moon of love.

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071-481 4481

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TO £50,000

Our Client is a market leader in the commercial litigation sphere, in particular for its advice to professionals and insurers.

An opportunity has arisen for an ambitious litigator with high quality commercial experience to join a Group which is currently involved in unravelling some of the major City disputes and collapses of the 1980s. Often intricate and seminal, the work is high on profile and complexity (involving many international issues). The clients are often senior managers, directors and other professionals.

With a sound grounding in mainstream litigation the successful candidate will receive full training in the rigours of this specialist field. They will be working in spacious new City offices and in a Group which offers clear prospects of partnership. Salaries are at the top end of City rates.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Macrae on 071-405 6062 (081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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NUMBER TWO

Our Client is a high profile expanding City firm. Its international client base expects and receives top quality legal advice.

The firm requires an additional dynamic senior lawyer to be based in its Brussels office. The successful applicant's role will be to help develop, promote and co-ordinate the firm's EEC and East-West trade law practice.

Applications are invited from lawyers who combine at least three years' post qualification experience with a sound knowledge of EEC law and the workings of the EEC's institutions. Fluency in French is essential, as is a strong creative personality.

The successful applicant will enjoy excellent prospects and a unique opportunity to be at the centre of the firm's European expansion programme.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Macrae on 071-405 6062 (081-672 8340 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



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Northumbria and Durham

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In complete contrast to the density of London, Northumbria and Durham cover a huge area of wild and varied countryside, with miles of stunning, unspoilt coastline. The regional and commercial centre of the area, Newcastle, is a busy city with an air of regeneration and dynamism. Just south of the River Tyne is the largest shopping mall in Europe. The four branches of the CPS in the Area are at Newcastle, Durham, Washington and Cramlington and vacancies exist in each location.

The national structure of the CPS means that vacancies may be available throughout England and Wales. Starting salaries will depend on experience and location, and range from £16,818 - £29,809 with further increments, based on performance to £35,451. (London appointments also receive a weighting allowance up to £1,750). Trainee Solicitors and Pupil Barristers salaries range between £10,765 and £12,899.

For further details on working for the CPS, please contact our Recruitment Team on (071) 273 8171, or write to the Recruitment Team, Crown Prosecution Service, 4-12 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AZ.

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## 1. EXECUTIVE TAX PLANNING

Major international accountancy firm seeks an experienced executive tax planning specialist to join a small, thriving team.

The role includes exposure to PAYE work, remuneration planning, share incentives work and marketing the groups services. This is a high profile position with high level client contact. Applicants should have sound technical knowledge, an analytical, yet commercial approach and the enthusiasm to work as part of a specialist team. Salary is negotiable and the package will include private health and pension scheme arrangements.

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Partnership prospects await the above average litigation solicitor with this successful young London practice. At least two years' ppe in general civil litigation with some experience of commercial is required.

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## PRIVATE PRACTICE

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City 20 Partnered "friendly" firm seeks 2 solicitors 1-2 years and 2-4 years PQE. The firm is exceptionally busy handling a broad spread of work. Excellent prospects, City track record required.

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Leading City firm seeks solicitor 0-4 years PQE to handle heavy commercial litigation caseload including some insurance related matters.

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Holborn £35-50,000  
Prestigious medium sized practice seeks solicitors NQ-1 years PQE and 2-4 years PQE to handle broad spread of company commercial work for international clients. A 2:1 degree is preferred.

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Birmingham £50,000  
Leading provincial firm seeks solicitor 3+ years PQE to handle a mix of quality heavy weight commercial litigation including some contentious insolvency. City/Hong Kong/good provincial firm track record sought. Partnership prospects good.

For further information please call or write  
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Exciting opportunity to join progressive oil company advising senior management on commercial matters and handling JOAs, construction contracts, staffing agreements etc. You will have 5-10 years PQE ideally in oil industry or in a contract orientated environment.

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## ASSISTANT COMPANY SECRETARY

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# The civil service way into Europe

British graduates are finding new schemes on offer to ensure wider placements in EC institutions, says Joan Llewellyn Owens

Many Britons have been deterred from entering European Community institutions by recruitment practices followed by the original six members, but not by the UK. These practices include the drawn-out process of selection and the fact that when candidates succeed in the *concours*, the selection process, they are not immediately offered a post. Instead, they are placed on a reserve list and have to lobby the directorates in which they are interested. Some who have obtained other jobs while waiting often decide to stay put.

As a result, Britain is under-represented in Europe. Fewer than 12 per cent of all A-grade administrative staff in the European Commission, by far the largest of the institutions, are British, whereas a geographically balanced share would be about 15 per cent.

John Holroyd, the first Civil Service Commissioner, says: "Because of our growing involvement

with Europe, we must increase our stake and have a bigger say in the running of the community. To do this, it is essential that we are properly represented among the community's civil servants."

The government feels so strongly about the issue that this year it introduced a recruitment and training scheme in the civil service to help British candidates wanting to compete for European administrative posts.

Under the scheme, up to 30 graduates a year will be selected for the European Fast-Stream through the Civil Service Commission's Appointments in Administration (A in A) scheme and recruitment schemes for lawyers, economists and statisticians. For the January qualifying test, the closing date is December 5, and for the April 1991 test, March 13. The first batch of hopefuls took the test last month. Of the 2,500 who applied for the Fast-Stream through A in A, 20 per cent put the European scheme first.

The European Fast-Stream is open to graduates and undergraduates who are under the age of 33 and who hold or expect a first-class or second-class degree in any discipline. There are no language requirements, but an O-level or GCSE is considered an adequate basis for the competitions and the European Fast-Stream offers language training.

Until now, the community has tended to appoint administrators from the ranks of lawyers and economists, but the British government has extracted a promise from the commission to introduce "generalist" competitions for graduates in all disciplines. Community institutions have also preferred graduates with further training or work experience.

Those who join the European Fast-Stream will get both of these. Katharine Elliott, the head of European staffing at the office of the civil service minister, says: "They will work in areas with a strong European element as well as in general policy areas that are relevant to work in Europe, such as the environment or regional policy."

Mr Holroyd says many will end up in a department with a strong European content. For example, the trade and industry department, the agriculture ministry, and customs have been deeply involved in Europe since Britain joined the EC.

First candidates must clear the hurdles that lie between them and admission to the A in A scheme. These are the qualifying test - a series of group exercises, tests and interviews lasting two days at the Civil Service Selection Board - and, if recommended, a 35-minute interview at the Final Selection Board.

Mr Holroyd says success does



not guarantee entry into the European Fast-Stream because there are only 30 places. "However," he says, "if trainees get into the right department, they can carve out a European career and later have a crack at the *concours*."

Once accepted for the European Fast-Stream, candidates, if aged under 26, are usually appointed as Administration Trainees (Europe), as Higher Executive Officers Development (Europe) or in the appropriate specialist grade if they are lawyers, economists or statisticians.

Mrs Elliott says individuals' training will depend on their

background and which competition they intend to enter, but will include courses on European issues, study visits to Brussels and possibly other capitals, language training if needed and coaching for the competitions at the Civil Service College.

She says: "We are drawing up this programme with the idea that it will be available to all people within the civil service, and if there is a market outside, we shall offer it to them, too." Asked how long it was likely to be before somebody entering the civil service via the European

Fast-Stream joined an EC institution, Mrs Elliott says: "It will vary. The competitions are biennial. Possibly the younger, less experienced candidates will have two attempts, trying for the A8 grade, then the A7 a couple of years later. After four years, we would expect them to be in the throes of a competition or on the reserve list."

The stages of a competition can take a year to be completed before candidates are placed on a reserve list. They may have to wait another year before being offered a job.

Now is the time when can-

didates need both stamina and determination. "We will give all British candidates as much help as we can with lobbying," Mrs Elliott says. The Cabinet Office and the Office of the UK Permanent Representative in Brussels can offer help and advice. The cabinets of the British commissioners can suggest contacts. While in the home civil service, European Fast-Stream candidates will probably make useful contacts among people in directorates in Brussels.

© The European Fast-Stream is available free from the Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 1JB.

## PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

**NORTH WALES POLICE BUILDING SERVICES ELECTRICAL ENGINEER**

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The successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of the electrical installations throughout the Force and will also be expected to undertake the physical maintenance and testing of the main Operational Stations and the design of systems on Minor Capital Works.

A full driving licence is required and a vehicle and equipment will be provided.

Appointments form and Job Specifications are available from:

The Chief Constable,  
North Wales Police,  
Police Headquarters,  
Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay,  
Chwyd LL29 8AW  
Tel: (0492) 517171 ext. 316

Closing date for receipt of applications: December 3, 1990.

**BOROUGH TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT Contract Services Accountant**

Salary up to £25,014 plus Contract Car Hire

We are seeking to appoint a qualified (CCAB) Accountant to provide financial advice and support to the Contract Services Department which is responsible for a range of major services subject to competitive tendering.

The successful candidate will -

- be responsible to the Borough Treasurer but will work closely with the Director of Contract Services and his senior staff and attend meetings of the Contract Services sub-Committee.
- advise upon and assist with the preparation of business plans, submission of competitive tenders, implementation and development of computerised systems and the regular monitoring of performance via the production of relevant and timely management information.
- have experience, in a senior financial position, within either the private sector or the public service and possess the necessary initiative, commitment, management and communication skills to inject a high degree of financial expertise into a 550-strong Direct Services Organisation to help ensure its continuing success.

The salary and conditions attached to this post include -

- Salary within the range £23,499 to £25,014 per annum, plus
- Car leasing - contribution equal to £2,500 per annum.
- Relocation package worth up to £3,500.
- Flexible working hours.
- Temporary housing.

For an informal discussion contact Lee Pickering, Deputy Borough Treasurer, (extension 2201).

Further details of this post and application forms are available from the Borough Treasurer, Town Hall, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 1JA. Telephone (0282) 25011, extension 2204.

The closing date for the receipt of completed application forms will be 3rd December 1990.

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Requires a

**SENIOR ACCOUNTANT (SYSTEMS & DEVELOPMENT)**

£16,530 pa

Responsibilities will include the management of existing General Ledger and feeder systems, planning, designing and implementing proposed developments of on-line and local department systems. You will also provide an advice and training service to users and assistance in the management of the contracted-out Internal Audit function.

If you would like further information about this post please contact: Mr P. Scott, Assistant Director of Finance, on 0753 859221 ext 307. An application form and job description are available from: Jo Taylor, Personnel Department, Frances House, 81 Frances Road, Windsor, Berks SL4 3AW. Tel: 0753 859221 ext 265.

Closing date for applications: November 23, 1990.

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East Berkshire Health Authority

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This is an excellent opportunity to gain experience in a multi-disciplinary legal environment.

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**INTERESTED:-**

For further details together with application form, returnable by 30th November 1990 contact the County Solicitor, County Hall, Dorchester.

DT1 1XJ Tel: (0305) 204294.

Informal enquiries to David Jenkins, Deputy County Solicitor, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ tel: (0305) 204177.

**DORSET County Council**

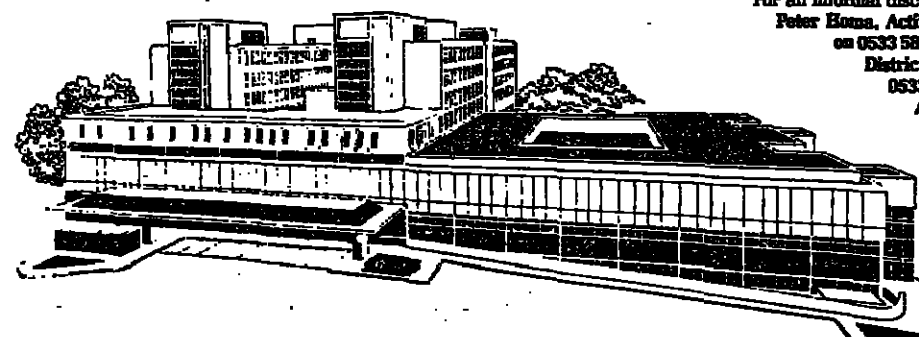
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- ★ The Role embraces staff management, strategic development, decision taking and financial control, offering outstanding versatility and immediate challenges. Career potential will be developed to the full towards either General Management or Senior Finance positions within the NHS.
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For an informal discussion please contact Peter Elms, Acting General Manager on 0533 586311 or Arthur Elms, District Finance Director on 0533 558777, Ext. 8658.

Application forms and an information package are available from Val Christie on 0533 586311.



**Assistant Research Officer (Job Share)**

£16,014-£17,271 (pro rata)

We require applications from enthusiastic persons with a numerate research background and extensive computing experience for this challenging post in the Research and Information Section of the County Planning Department which is being offered on a job sharing basis.

Working on a half-time arrangement you will share responsibility for the Section's mainframe computing in several subject areas and operational responsibilities for the major Planning Applications Record System (PARS) operated jointly with District Councils and two Western Parks.

This is a key post at the centre of the Department's information service and will offer scope to the right candidate to build on existing mainframe and micro-computer systems. In return we can offer one of the most attractive living environments in the Country where pleasant villages complement the superb and varied landscape of upland and lowland areas.

For informal discussion please contact Mr Cowie on the number below, ext 2421.

Application forms from the County Planning Officer, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 5AQ or by telephoning (0509) 780780 ext 2423.

Closing date 18.11.90.

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Please contact Elizabeth Grundy-Trengar, Personnel Officer, CARE Britain, Duxley House, 38-40 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7NE. Tel 071 379 5547.

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For informal discussion/visit contact John Addenbrooke, Chief Executive, telephone 0223 217610 or 0223 240774 ext. 5540.

Information packages available from Roy Male, Director of Personnel, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB3 9QQ. Telephone 0223-217615 (24 hour answering machine).

Closing date: 5th December, 1990.

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## SPORT

## Arsenal and United count the cost

By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE Football Association (FA), in imposing savage punishments on Manchester United and, particularly, Arsenal, yesterday reaffirmed its declared intent. Any club, whatever its stature, which indulges in gang warfare will subsequently face the full wrath of a governing body which is prepared to flex all of its considerable muscle power.

The FA's disciplinary committee, after a hearing lasting 3½ hours, decided to show no mercy to two of the most glamorous clubs in the country. Each was not only fined £50,000 for the brawl at Old Trafford three weeks ago, but also had League points deducted. Arsenal lost two, United one.

In confirming its determination to maintain high standards of behaviour and to instill a strong sense of discipline, the committee has been prepared to be accused of ushering the title even further towards Liverpool. Already the strong favourites to retain the championship, Kenny Dalglish's side has extended its lead without kicking a ball.

Arsenal, who had already fallen further behind last Saturday, now find themselves eight points adrift. By coincidence, the two teams are scheduled to meet at Highbury on December 2, in a Sunday afternoon fixture which is to be televised live, and the outcome has become even more significant.

David O'Leary, Arsenal's experienced central defender, expressed the feeling of utter deflation which descended on his club yesterday. "It is very sad," he said. "The champagne will be out at Liverpool tonight because this makes our task very much harder."

"Without being disparaging to all the others in the first division, we were the team that could have provided Liverpool with a genuine challenge. They have as good as handed the title to Anfield at Lancaster Gate today."

Anders Limpar, Arsenal's Swedish winger who was one of the principal figures in the unsavoury incidents at Old Trafford on October 20, was

## Revised table

|                | P  | W  | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Liverpool      | 12 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 7  | 34  |
| Arsenal        | 12 | 8  | 4 | 0 | 20 | 5  | 26  |
| Tottenham      | 12 | 7  | 4 | 1 | 22 | 9  | 25  |
| Crystal Palace | 12 | 5  | 6 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 21  |
| Leeds United   | 12 | 5  | 4 | 3 | 19 | 14 | 19  |
| Man City       | 12 | 4  | 6 | 2 | 16 | 18 | 18  |
| Man Utd        | 12 | 5  | 3 | 4 | 15 | 14 | 17  |

Two points deducted  
One point deducted

less pessimistic. "It seems very harsh. It makes it a little bit harder to catch Liverpool, but it is not impossible."

The international, who has played in Italy as well as in his own homeland, indicated the bemusement which spread among his colleagues. "I have not heard of anything like this in football, and certainly not in the countries I've played in."

But Ian Rush, the Liverpool forward who is in Luxembourg with the Welsh team, knows differently. He said: "I feel sorry for Arsenal, these things happen in the heat of the moment and everyone regrets it afterwards. We had two points deducted when I was at Juventus for crowd disturbances so it happens everywhere; Britain are just catching up. Arsenal are still a threat, as are Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United."

Arsenal and United were found guilty of misconduct and of bringing the game into disrepute, were censured, and warned as to their future conduct. Both can lodge an appeal within a fortnight, and last night the respective boards were discussing whether to respond to penalties which surprised even the FA's chief executive.

Graham Kelly, after announcing the details of the verdict, agreed that the unprecedented sentences might have caught everybody in the League unawares. Yet he circulated a letter to all 92 clubs before the start of the season, stipulating that the ultimate sanction (the deduction of points) could, and would, be used if necessary.

Rules 24 (a) and 26 (a, 10) were reinforced after Arsenal, Norwich City, West Ham United and Wimbledon were all fined for similar offences last season. "Action was taken



Under the spotlight: George Graham, the Arsenal manager, finds himself the centre of attention on his arrival at Lancaster Gate yesterday

then and here we are again," Kelly said. "The disciplinary committee felt that mass confrontations had to be stopped once and for all."

"We wish to emphasise our determination to eliminate them and we will again be writing to all the clubs to warn managers to avoid such incidents. We hope that the action which has now been taken will get the message across. Financial penalties obviously have not succeeded in doing so."

The five-man committee watched three videos of the brawl, heard the evidence of the referee, Keith Hackett, of his two linesmen, and listened to the defence presented by each club. The grim expressions worn by the representatives of Arsenal and

United, who departed in silence, offered an indication of the decision.

The trouble at Old Trafford, which had been simmering throughout the fixture, exploded early in the second half. A petty dispute between Irwin and Limpar was inflamed by the reckless intervention of Winterburn and involved 21 players.

Winterburn and Limpar were booked by Hackett, who conceded that his vision of events was impaired.

United took immediate internal action by fining Irwin, McClair and Ince. Arsenal followed the example and disciplined not only five of their players — Davis, Royle and Thomas, as well as Limpar and Winterburn — but also their manager,

George Graham. Their response was taken into consideration by the FA's committee and so were their respective previous records. Since Arsenal were officially considered the more guilty party at Old Trafford, and had been fined £20,000 11 months ago for brawling with Norwich, the fate of United seems to have been especially harsh.

Kelly conceded that both clubs had been "on trial by video", but he refused suggestions that steps might be taken in future only if the evidence was captured on film. Yet, if a fourth division game is similarly soiled, it is doubtful whether the miscreants would receive either the same publicity or the same punishment.

Tottenham censured, page 25

## RECORD CLUB FINES

£75,000: July 1989: Chelsea fined by FA for illegal payments to players.  
£50,000: Nov 1989: Arsenal fined and docked two points by FA on dispute charge following a players' brawl in the match against Manchester United at Old Trafford.  
£50,000: Nov 1989: Manchester United fined and docked one point for their part in the incident with Arsenal.  
£50,000: Nov 1989: Norwich City fined by FA over dispute charge after a players' brawl against Arsenal at Highbury.  
£20,000: Nov 1989: Arsenal fined for their part in the incident with Norwich.  
£20,000: Dec 1989: West Ham United fined by FA over dispute charge after a players' brawl at Upton Park in a Luton v West Ham match.  
£20,000: Nov 1989: Wimbledon fined on dispute charge for their part in the incident with West Ham.  
£15,000: 1978: Fulham fined by FA for illegal payments to players.  
£15,000: Aug 1988: Tottenham Hotspur fined by the Football League for non-fulfilment of opening day fixture against Coventry City.  
£10,000: April 1970: Derby County fined by the Football League for coaching Roy McFarland, the team manager, from Bradford City.  
£10,000: March 1989: Wimbledon fined by FA for unsolicited loans to players.  
£10,000: June 1989: Bradford City fined by the Football League for coaching Terry Yorath, the Swansea City manager.  
£10,000: Jan 1990: Watford fined by the Football League (75 per cent of it suspended for two years) for late arrival at Blackburn, when a motorway hold-up delayed the kick-off by one hour.

## FA may crack down on Leeds

By IAN ROSS

MANCHESTER City are preparing a report for the Football Association (FA) after discovering damage to seating in the Platt Lane end of their Maine Road ground following the game against Leeds United on Sunday.

Should the FA construe the incident as serious it could decide to invoke the suspended sentence imposed on Leeds after the riot at Bournemouth last season and insist the club plays four consecutive home games behind closed doors.

Jimmy Frizzell, City's assistant manager, said yesterday: "There is evidence of sheer and wanton vandalism. It is very difficult to estimate the full cost of the damage but it could be as much as £20,000." He thought that as many as 1,400 seats could have been damaged by the Leeds supporters.

The FA is also expected to study reports from the referee, police and its security officer, Les Walker, who was at the game, which brought 15 arrests when fighting broke out in streets near the ground.

Greater Manchester police reported that after 15 minutes of the game a group of 50 Leeds supporters infiltrated a seated area containing City followers, and trouble started. Fighting spilled on to the surrounds of the grounds and 58 people were ejected.

"The behaviour of the visiting Leeds supporters who caused this damage has been described as 'a disgrace to the face of football' by the match commander," a police spokesman said.

Last night, Leeds rejected suggestions that the damage was due to vandalism by their supporters. Nigel Pleasant, the club secretary, said: "It would appear that the broken seats were not damaged as a result of vandalism, but by supporters standing on them."

## Ball damage row boils over Skipperless ship off course

By RICHARD STREETON

NEW penalties in English cricket next summer will be imposed on bowlers found to have used a bottle top, or some other means, to damage one side of the ball in order to make it swing more.

The subject became topical this weekend with the extraordinary admission by Martin Crowe and Ian Taylor, the New Zealand captain and manager, that their team had deliberately damaged the ball in their recent Test series with Pakistan because they alleged

their opponents had done so. Pakistan officials denied their players had tampered with the ball. As relations between the two boards in Lahore and Christchurch deteriorated yesterday, Colin Cowdrey, the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), conceded that behaviour standards had worsened in recent years.

"It is both sad and unfortunate, though, when there is friction between two countries on this kind of issue," he said. It gave added import to the

ICC proposals, being discussed in January, for a referee to supervise Test matches. Such an official could adjudicate on contentious such as these and, if appropriate, take action.

Cowdrey agreed that damaging a ball was a distasteful subject but the growth of this particular form of gamesmanship was confirmed by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB). They have been increasingly concerned during recent English seasons by a rise in reports from umpires that mention an unexplained deterioration in the ball's condition.

Under the laws, umpires have to make "frequent and regular" inspections and there have been growing suspicions that balls have been disfigured by objects that can be carried in the pocket, as well as sunscreen to burnish the shine.

In addition to county cricket, there were at least two cases last summer when the ball incurred inexplicable damage, during an England innings against India and another instance came in the under-19 series with Pakistan.

The TCCB plan next summer to introduce a regulation which will empower umpires to replace a ball whose condition has been changed by artificial means for "one of much inferior condition". As an example, a ball perhaps only 20 overs old could be replaced by one previously used for 40 overs.

The board's new regulation,

which has already been in existence for anyone ruled to have picked the seam to highlight it, is far more punitive than cricket's Law 42, which deal with unfair play. This specifically mentions lifting the seam or changing the ball's condition, other than polishing. Law 42, though, merely states the ball shall be changed for "one of similar condition to that in use prior to the contravention."

Meanwhile, Crowe and Mr Taylor admitted in newspaper interviews when they returned home that New Zealand had doctored the ball with which Chris Pringle had dominated the third Test match at Faisalabad. Pringle, a medium-pace bowler, took seven for 52 and four for 100, though Pakistan went on to win the game by 65 runs to complete a 3-0 clean sweep in the series.

The two New Zealanders said they had been amazed at how much Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis swung the ball in the first two Tests. Taylor was quoted: "I am not sure how they did it — whether they used their fingernails or sandpaper; I would not have been surprised if they had used knives." Taylor said he spoke to the umpires and to other officials but nothing was done.

Arif Abbasi, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan, told The Times by telephone from Karachi: "These are disgraceful allegations of some unsuitably profligate cricket played by England during the first three days of this game and duplicated, critically, at a stage of the final day when they seemed on the point of another improbable escape."

At Perth, in their previous first-class match, they turned an impending thrashing into a draw so far-fetched that it could be labelled a moral win.

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
ADELAIDE

THE distress signals were out yesterday. England were beaten by South Australia for the only second time in 65 years and the team manager, Micky Stewart, admitted that time is no longer on their side.

With the first Test match, in Brisbane, now only ten days distant, Stewart surveyed the position solemnly before declaring: "There is still a lot to be done, and a very short time to do it in."

He could not be accused of over-dramatising the case. England's ship is hopelessly off course, short of a skipper and heading straight into a storm. A show of confidence in the face of these odds proved beyond even the usually urbane Stewart.

"There are signs that players have got used to things a bit more," he ventured. "But we have lost wickets through trying to hit the ball to the boundary in the wrong situations, and we have been too extravagant in our bowling and fielding when things needed to be kept tight."

This was an honest dissection of some unsuitably profligate cricket played by England during the first three days of this game and duplicated, critically, at a stage of the final day when they seemed on the point of another improbable escape.

At Perth, in their previous first-class match, they turned an impending thrashing into a draw so far-fetched that it could be labelled a moral win.

Here, beginning the fourth day still threatened by an innings defeat, England crept 111 runs ahead with four wickets standing and little more than a session remaining. Then, in the space of an over, their lifeline was cut.

Denis Hickey, aged 25, the opening bowler who joined South Australia this season because he could not hold down a place in the Victoria side, took those last four wickets in five balls and the state side, left 37 overs to score 112, encountered only minor alarms in winning with four overs in hand.

Given the state of play yesterday morning, this still represented an achievement for the touring team. There were times on Sunday when they were struggling to take this game into the last day, never mind the last hour, and there was cause for some encouragement in the batting of Alec Stewart and the all-round progress made by Chris Lewis.

Stewart was out only eight runs short of the opening first-class century of this tour and he played some resounding attacking strokes, especially against Peter Sleep, whose leg-spin supplied half his runs. On the debit side, he might have been out twice before he had scored and was finally out, ending a stand of 88 with Lewis, to a familiarly loose, back-foot forcing stroke out of the stumps.

With John Morris so far unable to translate his undoubted quality into substantial scores, Stewart seems sure to play in Brisbane, but he has

yet to dispel the suspicion of a flaw that high-class seam bowling will invariably exploit.

Lewis came into this game with a head full of instructions following his individual coaching sessions in Perth last week, and the impression he created is greatly to his credit. As Stewart explained: "He has responded well to the things we worked on, and that is never easy to do within a match situation."

The bottom hand has often tended to be too forthright in Lewis's batting, but in making 44 and 73 here he has to some extent conquered this, while playing a stream of attractive drives. His suspect running remains a problem, however, and he might easily have completed a match double of run-outs before, to his visible distress, being caught at extra cover off the leading edge.

This was the start of Hickey's spectacular finale. Russell, having loitered 107 defiant minutes for 13, showed a catch to the wicketkeeper next ball; Hemmings survived one, then launched a defective drive and edged to slip; Malcolm was yanked off his left foot first ball.

Hickey finished with seven wickets in the game and deserved them. At times, he was decidedly quick, which is more than can be said about Malcolm. In this game, he has looked to be doing no more than go through the motions, almost as if he had taken a view about Adelaide's serene pitches. Australian batsmen will not be quaking just yet.

Malcolm bowled only one second-innings over before retiring for attention to his toe. With Stewart also off, nursing a throat infection, and Gooch still in hospital, where he will remain until tomorrow, this left England with three substitutes and an air of disarray which even the combative bowling of Lewis and Martin Bicknell could not overcome.

There is an omen, for those who can find comfort in them. England's only other loss to this state, since 1924, came under Mike Brearley in 1978. They went on to win the Test series 5-1.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: First innings 431 for 6 (des (A) Bishop 154, P C Nobles 131, P R Sleep 71 not out).

Second innings  
"A M J Hickey c Atherton b Bicknell — 3  
W B Phillips c Lewis b Bicknell — 8  
P C Nobles des b Lewis — 11  
D W Hockes c Russell b Hemmings — 25  
P R Sleep not out — 20  
J C Stewart not out — 10  
Extras (b 1, nb 1) — 2  
Total (4 wickets) — 112

ENGLAND: First innings 217  
Second innings  
M A Atherton b Hickey — 40  
W L Lewis c Hickey — 18  
D J Gower c Miller b Sleep — 58  
J E Morris b Scudler — 18  
J C Stewart c Hickey b Scudler — 21  
C G Lewis c Scudler b Hickey — 73  
P C Russell c Hickey b Hickey — 13  
P R Sleep c Hickey b Hickey — 10  
M P Bicknell not out — 0  
G A Gooch absent hurt — 0  
Extras (b 6, lb 10, nb 3) — 19  
Total — 322

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-116, 3-116, 4-188, 5-274, 6-325, 7-325, 8-325, 9-325.  
BOWLING: Malcolm 1-4-0, Lewis 11-3-48-1 (1st); Bicknell 11-2-34-2, Hemmings 10-1-25-1.

ENGLAND: First innings 217  
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Umpires: A R Cretter and D Harper.  
Bradman's view, page 38

## Job goes back to school in search of finance

Montpellier

NICK Job stands out a mile among the 207 golfers competing in the six-round European Tour qualifying school here — and not only because of his startling red hair. Whereas most of his opponents are barely out of their teens, Job is now 41, having dropped out of the tour seven years ago.

He is now the professional at Richmond, Surrey — a job that gives him much satisfaction. But what it does not give him is financial security. Nor does he see that situation improving, rather the reverse.

Not only have the discount houses eaten into the club professional's income, for which he places much of the blame on the Professional Golfers' Association for their lack of protection of their members' expertise, but a change of policy in Britain over course

JOHN HENNESSY talks to a man among boys at the European Tour qualifying tournament

management was bound to "hurt the pros" still further.

Golf clubs, he says, are more conscious now of the need to protect their courses from overuse and are moving towards a reduction in the opening for societies and green fees, and increasing members' subscriptions. That inevitably means fewer customers calling in the pro shop.

"It's tough enough to make a living as it is," Job said. "Mostly, I work seven days a week from 8am to 6pm, and I enjoy it. I hope to stay there as long as the club will have me. But I've got to think about something to retire on. You don't get any pension."

His aim this week is to get not any old player's card, which is awarded to all those in the leading 50 here,

but one of the top ten. "That will enable me to pick and choose a little," he explained. He is motivated by the phenomenal growth of the European Tour — not only in the financial reward it offers but in the prolonged length of its calendar.

"I could play at the beginning and end of the season without neglecting my duties at the club," he declared. "In fact, the club and its members would benefit. I would have more money behind me to help finance the shop."

If his effort this week fails, he still has the PGA Southern Section to fall back on. "I won a pro-am this season and made about £6,000 all told. Allow for caddies' fees and loss of lessons at the club, and I cleared about £4,500."

In his earlier prime — he still believes another one is in the offing — he was good enough to play for the British Isles in the Hennessy

Cup in 1980. But he never quite made the Ryder Cup team, which was already open to continental players.

He is encouraged now by the principle that "by your pupils shall you be taught". The son and grandson of professional golfers, he found that the game came so naturally that he never had to give it a thought.

"I've learnt about the mechanics from teaching other people," he said. "Now, I know what's going wrong, if anything is going wrong, and can deal with it. I'm swinging better now than when I was last on tour."

His disenchantment with the PGA extends emphatically to the "Ryder Cup situation. I think the PGA have been heavy-handed,

cutting their own throats," he said. "If we lose income from the Ryder Cup, how can the PGA survive? Yet they rejected a perfectly reasonable offer from the European Tour three years ago."

"It is difficult to get any information from them yet the Tour is an open book. And I'm captain of the Southern Section of the PGA."

This is Job's first school. He joined the Tour in 1967, when the players progressed from week to week through pre-qualifying competitions. It may be his last.

A third-round 73 at La Grande Motte leaves him 15 shots behind the leaders and 83 places outside the cherished top 10.

Changing fortunes, page 39

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